

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE DIVISION

CARMEN BLANCO,

CASE NO. 00-6006-CIV-ZLOCH

Plaintiff,

MAGISTRATE JUDGE SELTZER

v.

MICHAEL W. MOORE, Secretary  
of the FLORIDA DEPARTMENT  
OF CORRECTIONS, in his Official  
Capacity, and FLORIDA DEPT. OF  
CORRECTIONS,

Defendants

FILED 57  
JUL 18 2001  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
FLORIDA  
[Signature]

**DEFENDANT DOC'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Defendant. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, by and through its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Rule 56(c), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, moves for summary judgment on all remaining claims against it, and in support states as follows:

**A. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS:**

1. Plaintiff, Carmen Blanco, commenced this action against Defendants, Michael W. Moore, Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections, in his official capacity ("Moore"), and the Florida Department of Corrections ("DOC") by filing a Complaint on January 4, 2000. (Dkt. 1).
2. Plaintiff's four count Complaint (Dkt. 1) contained the following causes of action: (i) Count I alleges nation origin discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, 42 U.S.C. §2000e, et seq. ("Title VII") against Moore and the DOC; (ii) Count II alleges age discrimination under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. §621, et seq. against Moore and the DOC; (iii) Count III alleges national origin discrimination pursuant to the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Florida Statutes §760.01 et seq. ("FCRA") against Moore and the DOC, and (iv) Count IV alleges age discrimination pursuant to the FCRA against Moore and the DOC.

[Signature]  
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**B. PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

3. On or about February 22, 2000, Defendants filed a Motion to Dismiss and Supporting Memorandum of Law. (Dkt. 7) Following compliance with Local Rule 7.1(A)(4), Defendants filed a Motion to Reconsider the Motion to Dismiss. (Dkt. 9).

4. The Motion to Dismiss set forth the following grounds for dismissal of the Complaint:

- a. Count II, ADEA claim, is barred by the Eleventh Amendment;
- b. Moore is immune to all claims in the Complaint under the doctrine of sovereign immunity;
- c. Count I, Title VII claim, is barred by Plaintiff's failure to file suit within 90 days of receipt of the EEOC right-to-sue letter;
- d. Any claims under Count I that arose prior to September 21, 1997 are time-barred.
- e. Count III, FCRA claim for national origin discrimination, is barred by sovereign immunity and the statute of limitations;
- f. Defendants are not liable for punitive damages under the FCRA; and
- g. Plaintiff failed to state a claim for age or national origin discrimination.

5. Upon consideration of the Motion to Reconsider, this Court issued an order granting in part and denying in part Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. (Dkt. 15) The May 11, 2000 Order of Court: (i) dismissed Count II pursuant to the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution; (ii) dismissed Count III for failure to comply with Fla. Stat. §768.28; and (iii) dismissed all Counts against Moore on the grounds of sovereign immunity. (Dkt. 15) The Court did not reach Defendants' FCRA statute of limitations or punitive damages arguments because it dismissed Count III for failure to comply with Fla. Stat. §768.28. (Dkt. 15).

6. The May 11, 2000 Order of Court denied Defendant DOC's Motion to Dismiss Count I, but it granted it as to Moore on the grounds of sovereign immunity. Therefore, the only remaining Defendant is the DOC. (Dkt. 15).

7. Following the Court's May 11, 2000 ruling, the only viable claim is Count I for Title VII national origin discrimination against DOC.

8. On or about July 24, 2000, Defendant DOC filed an Answer and Affirmative Defenses responding to Count I.

9. Due to a scrivener's error, Count IV was excluded from Defendant's Motion to Dismiss as well as the Answer and Affirmative Defenses. However, the same basis for dismissal of Count III applies to Count IV. See May 11, 2000 Court Order at 5-7 and 6n.1 (Dkt. 15) and Motion to Dismiss at ¶6 and Argument §V (pg. 8-10) (Dkt. 7). Specifically, Plaintiff is prohibited from proceeding on an FCRA claim if she has failed to provide the administrative notice necessary to invoke a waiver of the sovereign immunity embodied in Fla. Stat. §768.28. Accordingly, based on the law of the case, Defendant will move below to dismiss Count IV for the same reasons this Court dismissed Count III.

10. In the alternative, if this Court denies this Motion for Summary Judgment as to Count IV, Defendant DOC requests leave to file an Amended Answer responding to Count IV.

**C. STATEMENT PURSUANT TO S.D. FLA. LOCAL  
RULE 7.5 OF UNDISPUTED MATERIAL FACTS  
ENTITLING DEFENDANT TO SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

The following undisputed facts as stated are taken from the pleadings, depositions and exhibits in the record:

*Relevant Dates*

11. On March 13, 1992, Plaintiff was hired by the DOC as a Word Processor Systems Operator. (Ex. "A"; Complaint at ¶10 (Dkt. 1)).

12. On June 29, 1998, Plaintiff abandoned her position at DOC by resigning. (Ex. "B").

13. On July 16, 1998, Plaintiff filed a charge of discrimination against the DOC alleging discrimination in failing to promote and retaliation on the basis of national origin in violation of Title VII and the FCRA. (Ex. "C").

14. Three hundred (300) days before the filing of the July 16, 1998 EEOC Charge was

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<sup>1</sup>In response to a request for production of documents, Defendant DOC produced the EEOC file and the Plaintiff's personnel file. With the exclusion of depositions and interrogatory answers, the attached exhibits are excerpts from the document production.

September 19, 1997.

15. On Tuesday, October 5, 1999, the EEOC issued its Dismissal and Notice of Rights, EEOC Form 161 (10/96). (Ex. "D").

16. Monday, January 3, 2000 was the 90th day from October 5, 1999.

17. Plaintiff's Complaint was filed on January 4, 2000. (Dkt. 1).

Background Information On Plaintiff

18. Plaintiff was born on July 9, 1950. (Ex. "E"). Deposition of Carmen Blanco taken on March 16, 2001 ("Blanco Depo.") at 6).

19. Plaintiff was born in Puerto Rico, and she moved to the United States when she was three (3) years old. (Blanco Depo. at 6).

20. Plaintiff's educational background consists of high school and three and half (3 1/2) years of post-high school education at Broward Community College and Florida International University (FIU). Plaintiff does not have any degrees or professional licenses. (Blanco Depo. at 8-9).

The Complaint

21. Without admitting or conceding the veracity of Plaintiff's factual allegations, which Defendant vehemently disputes, Defendant DOC notes that Plaintiff asserts two types of adverse employment actions. Plaintiff alleges that she was not promoted 11 times between 1992 and 1998, and she claims she was denied training. Plaintiff also alludes to, but does not explicitly state, that she was constructively discharged. (Dkt. 1 at ¶¶ 10-19).

Undisputed Facts Relevant To Plaintiff's Promotion Claims

22. Of the 11 promotions Plaintiff claims she did not receive (Blanco Depo. at 41), Plaintiff received one of them (Blanco Depo. at 63-64).

23. Of the remaining ten positions, Plaintiff was only eligible and qualified for seven of the promotions during her employment. (Ex. "F", Defendant DOC's Answers to Plaintiff's First Set of Interrogatories, at No. 9) (Ex. "G" Applicant Information for Carmen Blanco -- excerpt from the EEOC investigation file which was produced in response to Plaintiff's First Request for Production of Documents).

24. Of the seven promotions, Plaintiff was eligible and qualified to be considered as an

applicant, only one occurred within 300 days of the filing of Plaintiff's EEOC charge. Specifically, it was for Position #27756 - Fiscal Assistant II, which closed on October 25, 1997 (Ex. "F" at No. 9; Ex. "G"). Carolyn Baker received this promotion. (Id.)

25. Plaintiff admits to receiving letters at the close of each job search indicating that a more qualified candidate was chosen. (Blanco Depo. at 108)

26. Plaintiff admits that she does not even know if she had the requisite qualifications for each promotion she sought. She estimates that she was eighty (80%) percent qualified for the positions she sought. (Blanco Depo. at 111).

27. Plaintiff has no knowledge of Ms. Baker's qualifications or whether Plaintiff is more or less qualified for the positions of Fiscal Assistant II. (Blanco Depo. at 104-105).

28. Plaintiff's only reason for believing she was more qualified was her six years experience as a word processor with good performance reviews. Plaintiff claims that if an employee had good performance reviews in one job, the person was automatically qualified for a promotion (Blanco Depo. at 109). Plaintiff cannot cite to any DOC policies that incorporate this view.

29. Ms. Baker was selected for the position of Fiscal Assistant II because she was more qualified than Plaintiff. (Ex. "H". Employee Histories of Baker and Plaintiff).

30. As a comparison of Plaintiff's and Ms. Baker's employee histories show, Ms. Baker had more experience and was better qualified for the position of Fiscal Assistant II because she had been performing the position since May 1994. Plaintiff's experience, on the other hand, was as a word processor. (Ex. "H").

31. The record is devoid of any evidence to show that Plaintiff was equally or more qualified for the position of Fiscal Assistant II. (Blanco Depo., Ex. "I", McDonald Depo.: Ex. "F"; Ex. "G", and Ex. "H").

*Undisputed Facts Relevant To Plaintiff's Failure To Train Claims*

32. Plaintiff's supervisor at the time of her resignation, Karen McDonald, is Jamaican. (McDonald Depo. at 6).

33. Ms. McDonald supervised Plaintiff for approximately two years prior to Plaintiff's resignation. (McDonald Depo. at 11).

34. The record is devoid of any evidence that Plaintiff was denied training opportunities. Non-Hispanic employees were not chosen for select training to increase their chances of promotion. Rather, DOC clerical employees, as a group, do not receive training to enable them to apply for promotions. (McDonald Depo. at 34-36).

35. The employees could, however, volunteer to serve as back-up for a position that could open up in the future. This would provide an employee with hands on experience. (McDonald Depo. at 34-36, 54)

36. While under Ms. McDonald's supervision, Plaintiff did not volunteer to serve as a back up to a higher level person, which would provide on the job training in the event a position became open. (McDonald Depo. at 36, 54).

Undisputed Facts Relevant To Plaintiff's Resignation

37. Plaintiff's only reprimand -- for which she can complain -- occurred on June 16, 1998. It was a written reprimand concerning her unprofessional conduct, which included loud vocal insubordination. (Ex. "J"). Plaintiff could not have suffered any adverse employment actions from this reprimand because she resigned a few days later on June 29, 1998 (Ex. "B")

38. In response, Plaintiff filed two grievances. The first was a union grievance dated June 23, 1998. (Ex. "K"). Plaintiff also filed a Career Service Grievance. (Ex. "L").

39. The union grievance complained that Plaintiff was not permitted to see her personnel file by Grace Fishter, Ms. McDonald's supervisor. It did not complain in any fashion about national origin discrimination or retaliation. (Ex. "K").

40. The Career Service Grievance complained that Plaintiff was "discriminated against, harassed and retaliated against indirectly." (Ex. "L"). It does not, however, refer to or complain in any way about national origin discrimination. (Id.). The remaining 26 lines of Plaintiff's Complaint deal with Ms. Fishter's alleged unprofessional behavior towards Plaintiff. The Grievance provides examples of this unprofessional behavior including negative memorandums in

Plaintiff's personnel file<sup>2</sup> and refusal to permit Plaintiff to inspect the file, but it does not concern Plaintiff's national origin. (*Id.*) Plaintiff concludes by threatening as follows:

Until there is an investigation on Ms. Fishter's behavior towards me regarding her unprofessional behavior by an independent agency, or someone from Tellahsee [sic], I Carmen Blanco refuse to come to work until this problem is solved.

(*Id.*). Importantly, the threat to not return to work concerned Ms. Fishter's alleged unprofessional behavior and not any allegations of discrimination or retaliation on the basis of national origin. (*Id.*).

41 On June 29, 1998, Plaintiff resigned from her position at the DOC. (Ex. "B"; Blanco Depo. at 96-97).

42 Plaintiff gave the DOC an ultimatum through her resignation. She threatened that until the memorandums Ms. Fishter put in her personnel file were investigated, she would not return. (Blanco Depo. at 96-97).

43 Plaintiff's resignation letter stated in relevant part as follows.

Ms. McDonald...Until there is an investigation from an independent agency regarding the unethical and unprofessional behavior towards me, I Carmen Blanco resign... as of June 29, 1998.

(Ex. "B"). Although Ms. Fishter's unethical and unprofessional behavior is referenced in the resignation letter, there is no complaint about discrimination or retaliation on the basis of national origin. (Ex. "B") It, therefore, is undisputed that Plaintiff voluntarily resigned on June 29, 1998. (Exs. "B", "K", and "L")

44 It also is undisputed that Plaintiff did not complain that she was being discriminated or retaliated against on the basis of her national origin until she filed the EEOC Charge after her resignation. (Ex. "C").

45 It also is undisputed that Plaintiff's reason for voluntarily resigning concerned

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<sup>2</sup>It should be noted for the record that Plaintiff's personnel file does not contain any negative memorandums from Ms. Fishter except for the written reprimand (Ex. "J"). (See, e.g., Ex. "M" Report of Investigation Office of the Inspector General Department of Corrections dated 12/28/98 excluding attachments [containing a synopsis of the contents of Plaintiff's voluminous personnel file]).

personal matters between her and Ms. Fishter over Ms. Fishter's alleged unprofessional and unethical treatment of Plaintiff -- not over discrimination. (Exs. "B", "K", and "L").

46 In any event, it is also undisputed that the circumstances as described in Plaintiff's own words do not rise to the level of intolerable working conditions. (Exs. "B", "K", and "L").

**D. MOTION FOR FINAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

47 The pleadings, depositions and discovery demonstrate the lack of any issue of material fact raised by Plaintiff.

48 Count I fails as a matter of law because the Complaint appears to be filed more than 90 days from the date of the EEOC right to sue letter. E.g., Norris v. Florida Dept. of Health & Rehabilitative Services, 730 F. 2d 682 (11th Cir.1984)

49 Any claims raised by Plaintiff in Count I that arose before September 19, 1997 -- 300 days before the filing of the EEOC Charge -- also are time-barred. Specifically, there is no evidence of failure to train after September 19, 1997 and ten of the eleven promotions at issue occurred before September 19, 1997. Accordingly, Defendant DOC is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on any time barred claims. See 42 U.S.C. §2000e-5(e)(1), Forehand v. Florida State Hosp., 89 F.3d 1562, 1567 (11th Cir. 1996), Samedi v. Miami-Dade County, 134 F. Supp. 2d 1320, 1342 (S.D. Fla. 2001).

50 Defendant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on Plaintiff's only non-time barred claim under Count I because the undisputed facts of this case establish that Plaintiff cannot establish a prima facie case of failure to promote because of her national origin. Specifically, Plaintiff cannot show she was qualified for the position of Fiscal Assistant II, and Plaintiff cannot show that Carolyn Baker was equally or less qualified for that position. E.g., Walker v. Mortham, 158 F. 3d 1177, 1192-93 (11th Cir. 1998); Wu v. Thomas, 847 F. 2d 1480, 1483 (11th Cir. 1988).

51 Defendant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on Plaintiff's constructive discharge charge claim in Count I because it is outside the scope of the EEOC charge. E.g., Evans v. U.S. Pipe & Foundry Co., 696 F. 2d 925, 928-29 (11th Cir. 1983)

52 Further, Defendant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on Plaintiff's constructive discharge charge claim in Count I because the undisputed facts of this case establish



that Plaintiff voluntarily resigned. Moreover, the undisputed facts do not support a claim that the work conditions are objectively intolerable so as to require Plaintiff to resign. E.g., Poole v. Country Club of Columbus, Inc., 129 F.3d 551, 553 n.2 (11th Cir. 1997).

53. Under the law of the case doctrine, Plaintiff is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on Count IV because it should be dismissed for the same reasons this Court dismissed Count III -- failure to comply with Fla. Stat. §768.28. E.g., Winck v. Danzig, Civil Action No. 01-A-216-N, 2001 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 7950 at \*5 (N.D. Ala., June 11, 2001).

54. Defendant also is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on Plaintiff's FCRA age discrimination claim in Count IV because it is outside the scope of the EEOC charge. E.g., Evans v. U.S. Pipe & Foundry Co., 696 F.2d at 928-29.

55. Defendant also is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on the punitive damages claims in Counts I and IV because state agencies cannot be liable for punitive damages. See 42 U.S.C. § 1981a(b)(1); Erickson v. Hunter, 932 F. Supp. 1380 (M.D. Fla. 1996) aff'd without op. 176 F.3d 493 (11th Cir. 1999).

56. Finally, Defendant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on any damages claims beyond June 29, 1998 because Plaintiff voluntarily resigned. E.g., Morrison v. Genuine Parts Co., 828 F.2d 708, 709 (11th Cir. 1987).

57. In further support of this Motion for Summary Judgment, Defendant DOC incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein its Memorandum in Support.

WHEREFORE, Defendant respectfully requests that this Court grant summary judgment on Counts I and IV because the undisputed facts of record establish that Plaintiff cannot establish liability on Counts I and IV.

In the alternative, Defendant requests that this Court grant summary judgment on Plaintiff's claims for punitive damages and damages arising after June 29, 1998, and grant it leave to file an Amended Answer to respond to Count IV.

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT****I. STANDARD FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Summary Judgment is proper, as it is here, when the pleadings, depositions, and affidavits show that there is no genuine issue of material fact and Defendants, as the moving party, show they are entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Hill v. Clifton, 74 F.3d 11150, 11152 (11th Cir. 1996), citing Celotex Corporation v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986). The evidence must be viewed in the light most favorable to the non-moving party. Hill at 11152. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(c), this action should be dismissed in its entirety. Even construing all the evidence in favor of the non-moving party, Plaintiff cannot establish that Defendant is liable to Plaintiff on the claims presented in Counts I and IV.

**II. DOC IS ENTITLED TO JUDGMENT AS A MATTER OF LAW ON COUNT I****A. Plaintiff Must Comply With The Jurisdictional Prerequisites Of Title VII.**

Title VII requires that plaintiff's seeking to bring civil actions under Title VII must do so within 90 days of receiving notice of their right-to-sue from the EEOC. See Mohasco Corp. v. Silver, 447 U.S. 807, 826 (1980); Goldsmith v. Atmore, 996 F.2d 1155, 1160 (11th Cir. 1993); Norris v. Florida Dept. of Health & Rehabilitative Services, 730 F.2d 682 (11th Cir. 1984), 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(f)(1). Compliance with the 90 day requirement is a prerequisite or condition precedent to the bringing of a Title VII action. If a claimant does not file suit within the time allotted, her claim is time-barred. 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(f)(1); 29 U.S.C. § 626(3); see generally, Norris, 730 F.2d at 682; Chapman v. Travalco, U.S.A., Inc., 973 F. Supp. 1045 (S. D. Fla. 1997). In fact, this ninety-day limit is strictly enforced in the Eleventh Circuit. See Norris v. Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, 730 F.2d at 682 (ninety-one days); Lau v. Hercules, Inc., 713 F.2d 691, 692 (11th Cir. 1983) (Title VII complaint, filed ninety-one days after the EEOC's right-to-sue letter was signed by plaintiff's seventeen year-old son, was time-barred. The dismissing suit filed ninety-one days after right to sue letter received at their shared place of residence), Bell v. Eagle Motor Lines, Inc., 693 F.2d 1086 (11th Cir. 1982) (affirming the dismissal of suit for failure to meet the 90-day filing deadline where the EEOC notification letter was delivered to plaintiff's home and was received by Plaintiff's wife who resided in the

home).

The 90 day period begins to run from the date the EEOC right to sue letter is delivered to formally designated counsel or to claimant. Thus, the date that the ninety days begins to run is from the date that the Plaintiff receives the notice. E.g., Goldsmith, Ringgold v. National Maintenance Corp., 796 F.2d 769, 770 (5th Cir. 1986). In this case, the EEOC issued the right to sue letter on October 5, 1999. (Ex. "D"). Plaintiff filed the complaint 91 days later on January 4, 2000. Unless Plaintiff can show that she received the letter prior to October 6, 1999, Count I must fail as a matter of law because it is time-barred.

**B. Plaintiff's Claims Arising Prior To September 19, 1997 Are Time-Barred.**

Title VII requires that a charge of discrimination with EEOC be filed within 300 days of the alleged unlawful employment practice. See 42 USC §2000e-5(e)(1) (requiring charges to be filed "within three hundred days after the alleged unlawful employment practice occurred"), Forehand v. Florida State Hosp., 89 F.3d 1562, 1567 (11th Cir. 1996). Any claims for relief concerning alleged unlawful employment practices that occurred prior to 300 days before the filing of the EEOC charge are time-barred as a matter of law.

In this case, Plaintiff filed her charges with the FCHR and the EEOC on July 16, 1998 (Ex. "C"). Any claims arising from actions taken prior to September 19, 1997, therefore, are time-barred. As noted in the undisputed facts, Plaintiff asserts two claims in her Complaint -- denials of 11 promotions and failure to train. It is undisputed that only one of the eleven promotions at issue occurred within the 300 day time period. Specifically, it was Position #27756 - Fiscal Assistant II, which closed on October 25, 1997. (Ex. "F" at No. 9; Ex. "G"). With respect to the failure to train, Ms. McDonald, Plaintiff's supervisor during this 300 day time period, unequivocally testified that Plaintiff was not denied any training opportunities during this period (McDonald Depo. at 34-36, 54). Moreover, Plaintiff's deposition is devoid of any denials of training during the relevant time period. (See, generally, Blanco Depo.). Plaintiff, as a matter of law, only can assert one timely claim for failure to promote, and she cannot assert any timely claims of failure to train. Accordingly, this Court should grant summary judgment to Defendant DOC with respect to any claims arising prior to September 19, 1997. See Samedi v. Miami-Dade

County, 134 F. Supp. 2d 1320, 1342 (S.D. Fla. 2001) (granting summary judgment on all claims arising more than 300 days before the filing of the EEOC charge). Specifically, this Court should rule that the only timely claim the Plaintiff has is for the failure to promote to Position #27756.

**C. Plaintiff's Only Non-Time Barred Claim Fails As A Matter Of Law.**

A plaintiff may establish a prima facie of discrimination in a promotional decision by showing: (1) that she is a member of a protected class [national origin]; (2) that she was qualified for and applied for a promotion; (3) that she was considered for and denied the promotion, and (4) other equally or less qualified employees who are not members of the protected minority were promoted. See Walker v. Mortham, 158 F. 3d 1177, 1192-93 (11th Cir. 1998), Wu v. Thomas, 847 F. 2d 1480, 1483 (11th Cir. 1988), see also Bundy v. Jackson, 641 F. 2d 934, 951 (D.C. Cir. 1981) (modifying formula approved in McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Green, 411 U.S. 792, 802 & n. 13 (1973) for cases involving discriminatory refusal to hire). For purposes of summary judgment only, DOC can concede that Plaintiff can establish the first and third elements. Plaintiff is of Puerto Rican national origin, and she was considered and denied the promotion (Blanco Depo. at 6 and Ex. "H"). Plaintiff has no evidence that she was qualified for the position (the second element) or that an equal or less qualified non-minority person received the promotion (the fourth element). Therefore, as a matter of law, Plaintiff's failure to promote claim fails.

The only non-time-barred promotion concerns Position #27756 - Fiscal Assistant II, which closed on October 25, 1997. (Ex. "F" at No. 9; Ex. "G"). Carolyn Baker received the promotion. (Id.). In this case, Plaintiff has no evidence to show that Plaintiff was qualified to be the Fiscal Assistant II, or that Carolyn Baker was equally or less qualified than Plaintiff. As the undisputed facts show, Plaintiff admits to receiving letters at the close of each job search -- presumably including this position -- indicating that a more qualified candidate was chosen. (Blanco Depo. at 108) Plaintiff also admits that she does not even know if she had the requisite qualifications for each promotion she sought. She estimates that she was eighty (80%) percent qualified for the positions she sought. (Blanco Depo. at 111).

Plaintiff has no knowledge of Ms. Baker's qualifications or whether Plaintiff is more or

less qualified for the position of Fiscal Assistant II. (Blanco Depo. at 104-105). Plaintiff's only reason for believing she was more qualified was her six years experience as a word processor with good performance reviews. Plaintiff claims that if an employee had good performance reviews in one job the person was automatically qualified for a promotion. (Blanco Depo. at 109). This, however, is unsupported by any DOC policy.

The undisputed evidence does establish that Ms. Baker was selected for the position of Fiscal Assistant II because she was more qualified than Plaintiff. (Ex. "H": Employee Histories of Baker and Plaintiff). As a comparison of the Plaintiff's and Baker's employee histories show, Ms. Baker had more experience and was better qualified for the position of Fiscal Assistant II because she had been performing the position since May 1994. Plaintiff's experience, on the other hand, was as a word processor. (Ex. "H", Blanco Depo. at 109). Accordingly, Plaintiff lacks any evidence to show that Plaintiff was equally or more qualified for the position of Fiscal Assistant II. (Blanco Depo., Ex. "I", McDonald Depo., Ex. "F", Ex. "G", and Ex. "H").

Although Defendant DOC acknowledges that it has the initial burden in a summary judgment motion to establish the absence of a genuine issue as to any material fact, the Plaintiff has the burden of presenting evidence to support her claims. Adickes v. S.H. Kress & Co., 398 U.S. 144, 157 (1970); Allen v. Tyson Foods, Inc., 121 F.3d 642, 646 (11th Cir. 1997) ("the focus in reviewing a motion for summary judgment is "whether the evidence presents a sufficient disagreement to require submission to a jury or whether it is so one-sided that one party must prevail as a matter of law"). At the summary judgment stage, Plaintiff's burden is to set forth specific facts showing the existence of a genuine issue of a material fact by producing affirmative evidence sufficient for a reasonable jury to return a verdict in her favor. Earley v. Champion Int'l Corp., 907 F.2d 1077, 1080 (11th Cir. 1990). A mere "scintilla" of evidence, or evidence that is only "colorable" or is "not significantly probative" is insufficient. Anderson, 477 U.S. at 248-50. Issues of fact are genuine only if a reasonable jury, considering the evidence presented, could find for Plaintiff. Anderson, 477 U.S. at 247-51.

In this case, Plaintiff the record is insufficient and unsupported by admissible evidence. See Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co., Ltd. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 587 (1986) (where

factual context of claim is implausible, the nonmoving party must come forward with more persuasive evidence than would otherwise be necessary). The record does not provide Plaintiff with any evidence sufficient to met her burden in this summary judgment. Specifically, the Plaintiff show the existence of a genuine issue of a material fact by producing affirmative evidence sufficient for a reasonable jury to return a verdict in her favor because no such facts exist. Accord, Earley, 907 F.2d at 1080. In this case, Plaintiff cannot establish that she was not promoted because of her national origin. Nor can Plaintiff demonstrate that she was equally or more qualified than Carolyn Baker, the individual selected for the promotion. Accordingly, Defendant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on Count I because Plaintiff's only non-time barred claim lacks any evidentiary support.

**D. Plaintiff's Constructive Discharge Claim Fails As A Matter Of Law.**

Although it is not clear from the Complaint, Plaintiff may also be asserting a constructive discharge claim under Count I. Defendant is entitled to summary judgment on this claim for two reasons. First, it is beyond the scope of the EEOC charge, and it is unsupported by the record.

**1. Plaintiff Is Prohibited From Raising Claims Not Raised In Charge.**

Plaintiff's EEOC charge, which was cross-filed with the FCHR (Ex. "C"), does not raise any claims of constructive discharge. It only raises a claim of national origin discrimination in failing to promote and retaliation in violation of Title VII. The charge indicates that the first and last date of discrimination was April 18, 1998 -- several months before her resignation (Ex. "C"). The charge does not reference or complain that Plaintiff was constructively discharged. Therefore, any claims of constructive discharge are beyond the scope of the original charge. Unless the lawsuit claim is "like or related" to the claims raised in the EEOC charge, lawsuit counts raising claims outside the scope of the EEOC charge of discrimination fail as a matter of law. E.g., Evans v. U.S. Pipe & Foundry Co., 696 F.2d 925, 928-29 (11th Cir. 1983); EEOC v. Jacksonville Shipyards, Inc., 696 F. Supp. 1438 (M.D. Fla. 1988); Wallace v. Alabama By-Products Corp., Civil Action No. 85-AR-0110-S, 1985 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15590, \*4-5 (N.D. Ala. Sept. 25, 1985). Plaintiff's constructive discharge claim, therefore, fails as a matter of law because it is beyond the scope of the EEOC charge in that it is not "like or related" to a

failure to promote claim. (Ex. "C").

## 2. **Plaintiff Was Not Constructively Discharged.**

Moreover, the evidence is insufficient to support a claim of constructive discharge. In order to be eligible for any damages after the date of Plaintiff's resignation, she must prove that she was "constructively discharged." Morrison v. Genuine Parts Co., 828 F.2d 708, 709 (11th Cir. 1987). The standard for proving constructive discharge is extremely high. In fact, it is higher than the standard for proving a hostile work environment. Landgraf v. USI Film Prods., 968 F.2d 427, 430 (5th Cir. 1992) ("To prove constructive discharge, the plaintiff must demonstrate a greater severity or pervasiveness of harassment than the minimum required to prove a hostile working environment"). *aff'd*, 511 U.S. 244 (1994); see also Steele v. Offshore Shipbuilding, Inc., 867 F.2d 1311, 1316-18 (11th Cir. 1989) (affirming district court's conclusion that Title VII plaintiffs were subjected to hostile work environment, but were not constructively discharged); Huddleston v. Roger Dean Chevrolet, Inc., 845 F.2d 900, 905-06 (11th Cir. 1988) (same).

In evaluating constructive discharge claims, this Court cannot consider Plaintiff's subjective feelings. Instead, this Court is to employ an objective standard. Doe v. DeKalb County Sch. Dist., 145 F.3d 1441, 1450 (11th Cir. 1998). Specifically, a plaintiff must demonstrate that working conditions were "so intolerable that a reasonable person in her position would have been compelled to resign." Poole v. Country Club of Columbus, Inc., 129 F.3d 551, 553 n.2 (11th Cir. 1997). See also Hill v. Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc., 934 F.2d 1518, 1527 (11th Cir. 1991) (citation omitted) (the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals has "traditionally required a high degree of deterioration in an employee's working conditions, approaching the level of 'intolerable'"). The Eleventh Circuit has made clear that a failure to promote, as Plaintiff claims here, is insufficient to establish grounds for being constructively discharged. See Wardwell v. School Bd. of Palm Beach County, 786 F.2d 1554 (11th Cir. 1986). Likewise, there is no legal support for the theory that a Plaintiff is permitted to use her resignation as an ultimatum to obtain an investigation of alleged unprofessional behavior by a supervisor that is unrelated to violations of the ADEA, Title VII and/or the FCRA. This is especially true, where as in this case, the Defendant DOC had options for Plaintiff to pursue two different types of internal grievances. (Exs. "K" and "L").

The evidence in this case is devoid of objective support for how Plaintiff could have been constructively discharged. It is undisputed that Plaintiff voluntarily resigned from her position at the DOC on June 29, 1998. (Ex. "B". Blanco Depo. at 96-97). It also is undisputed that the circumstances as described in Plaintiff's own words do not rise to the level of intolerable working conditions. (Ex. "B"). Plaintiff's reason for leaving concerned personal matters between her and Ms. Fishter over Ms. Fishter's alleged unprofessional and unethical treatment of Plaintiff -- not over discrimination. Plaintiff gave the DOC an ultimatum through her resignation. She threatened that until the memorandums Ms. Fishter allegedly placed in her personnel file were investigated, she would not return. (Blanco Depo. at 96-97; Exs. "K," "L" and "B"). In fact, Plaintiff never complained of discrimination on the basis of national origin or age prior to her resignation, and she resigned before fully pursuing her grievances. (Exs. "K," "L" and "B").

There are no genuine issues of material fact in dispute as to the determination of whether Plaintiff was constructively discharged. Plaintiff's deposition testimony coupled with her two grievances and her resignation letter make it perfectly clear that Plaintiff was not working in intolerable working conditions. Rather, Plaintiff was in a dispute with her supervisor over personnel matters wholly unrelated to discrimination or retaliation on the basis of national origin or age discrimination. This is not "intolerable" as required by the Eleventh Circuit. Cf. Poole v. Country Club of Columbus, Inc., 129 F.3d at 553.

Defendant DOC is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law on Plaintiff's constructive discharge charge claim because it is beyond the scope of the EEOC charge (Ex. "C") and is wholly unsupported by the evidence. (Blanco Depo. at 96-97; Exs. "K," "L" and "B").

### **III. DOC IS ENTITLED TO JUDGMENT AS A MATTER OF LAW ON COUNT IV**

In the May 11, 2000 Order of Court, this Court found as a matter of law that Count III should be dismissed for failure to comply with §768.28(6)(a), Florida Statutes. (Dkt. 15 at 6). As noted above, due to a scrivener's error, Count IV was excluded from the Motion to Dismiss as well as the Answer and Affirmative Defenses. Accordingly, this is Defendant DOC's first response to Count IV.



**A. The Law Of The Case Doctrine Requires Dismissal Of Count IV.**

Count IV sets forth the same claim as Count III -- violation of the FCRA -- except that Count IV concerns age instead of national origin discrimination (Dkt. 1 at ¶¶31-40). In any event, both Counts III and IV are based on the same administrative proceeding of filing a charge of discrimination (Ex. "C") with the EEOC. (Dkt. 1 at ¶¶8-9).

On May 11, 2000, Count III was dismissed pursuant to the argument set forth in Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. Defendant DOC incorporates by reference the arguments in favor of dismissal of Count III of the Complaint in support of why summary judgment should be granted on Count IV. In short, Plaintiff's Complaint does not state that Plaintiff has provided the administrative notice necessary to invoke waiver of sovereign immunity embodied in section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in order to pursue Counts III or IV.

Under the law of the case doctrine, this Court should dismiss Count IV for the same reasons it dismissed Count III. The law of the case doctrine "posits that when a court decides upon a rule of law, that decision should continue to govern the same issues in subsequent stages in the same case." Winck v. Danzig, Civil Action No. 01-A-216-N, 2001 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 7950 at \*5 (N.D. Ala., June 11, 2001), quoting Arizona v. California, 460 U.S. 605, 618 (1983). In this case, the same reasons for dismissing Count III support why Defendant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on Count IV. As this Court found as a matter of law on May 11, 2000:

The Defendants next assert that they are entitled to dismissal of Count III of Plaintiff's Complaint because the Plaintiff has failed to allege that she provided the administrative notice necessary to invoke a waiver of sovereign immunity as required by Fla. Stat. § 768.28. Fla. Stat. §768.28 provides in relevant part:

An action may not be instituted on a claim against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions unless the claimant presents the claim in writing to the appropriate agency, and also, except as to any claim against a municipality or the Spaceport Florida Authority, presents such claim in writing to the Department of Insurance, within 3 years after such claim accrues and the Department of Insurance or the appropriate agency denies the claim in writing.

This section is part of the statutory waiver of sovereign immunity and by its terms requires written notice of the Department of Insurance within three years of the accrual of the claim before suit may be filed against any state agency. Levine v.

Dade County Sch. Bd., 442 So.2d 210, 212 (Fla. 1983)

Here, the Plaintiff's Complaint fails to allege that she has provided the administrative notice necessary to invoke a waiver of sovereign immunity embodied in Fla. Stat. §768.28. The Plaintiff also has failed to allege the dates on which she was allegedly denied promotions. Absent evidence of waiver of statutory notice or estoppel by the state or other entity involved, where the time for notice of claim against the state has expired so that it is apparent that the Plaintiff cannot fulfill the requirement, the Court has no alternative but to dismiss Count II of the Plaintiff's Complaint. See Brown v. State Dep't of Corrections, 701 So.2d 1211 (Fla. 1st DCA 1997).

(Dkt. 15 at pp. 5-6). Due to Plaintiff's failure to comply with §768.28, Fla. Stat., Defendant DOC is entitled to judgment as a matter of law on Count IV.

**B. Plaintiff Is Prohibited From Raising Claims Not Raised In Charge.**

Plaintiff's EEOC charge, which was cross-filed with the FCHR (Ex. "C"), does not raise any claims of discrimination on the basis of age. It only raises a claim of national origin discrimination and retaliation. Therefore, Count IV, age discrimination in violation of the FCRA, is beyond the scope of the original charge. As explained above with respect to the constructive discharge claim, unless the lawsuit count is "like or related" to the claims raised in the EEOC charge, lawsuit counts raising claims outside the scope of the EEOC charge of discrimination fail as a matter of law. E.g., Evans, 696 F.2d at 928-29; Wallace v. Alabama By-Products Corp., 1985 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15590 at \*4-\*5. Plaintiff's age discrimination claim, as with the constructive discharge claim, fails as a matter of law because it is beyond the scope of the EEOC charge. (Ex. "C").

**IV. THE DOC CANNOT BE LIABLE FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES.**

Plaintiff asserts that she is entitled to an award of punitive damages against the DOC on Counts I and IV.<sup>3</sup> Plaintiff's claim for punitive damages fails as a matter of law because she cannot recover punitive damages from a state agency on either Count I or Count IV.

---

<sup>3</sup>Plaintiff also claimed she was entitled to punitive damages on Counts II and III, but these claims were dismissed so this Court did not reach the punitive damages issue in the May 11, 2000 Order of Court concerning Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. (Dkt. 15).

With respect to Count I, Title VII explicitly exempts Defendant DOC from punitive damages. See 42 U.S.C. § 1981a(b)(1) (“Determination of punitive damages. A complaining party may recover punitive damages under this section against a respondent (other than a government, government agency or political subdivision) ...”). See also Erickson v. Hunter, 932 F. Supp 1380 (M.D. Fla. 1996) aff’d without op 176 F.3d 493 (11th Cir. 1999).

With respect to Count IV, section 768 28(5), Florida Statutes provides that “the state and its agencies and subdivisions shall be liable for tort claims in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstances, but liability shall not include punitive damages or interest for the period before judgment.” See also §760 11(5), Florida Statutes (cross-referencing §768 28(5) in the FCRA).

As a matter of law, Plaintiff cannot recover punitive damages from Defendant DOC in Counts I and IV. Therefore, this Court should grant summary judgment as to Plaintiff’s claims for punitive damages to the extent this Court does not dismiss Counts I and IV in their entirety.

**V. PLAINTIFF IS BARRED FROM RECOVERING ANY DAMAGES FROM JUNE 29, 1998 INTO THE FUTURE.**

To the extent this Court is inclined to deny Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss Counts I and/or IV in their entirety, Plaintiff is barred from recovering any damages beyond June 29, 1998 -- the date she resigned. In a claim under Title VII<sup>4</sup>, damages can include back pay and front pay. The back pay period extends until the date of judgment. Nord v. United States Steel Corp., 758 F.2d 1462, 1473 (11th Cir. 1985) (citation omitted). Therefore, back pay begins at the time of the discriminatory employment action and runs through the date judgment is entered in a plaintiff’s favor. Front pay and/or reinstatement, on the other hand, are discretionary and cover the time period from the judgment through a date in the future where the jury or the court believes Plaintiff will be restored to the same status as before the alleged discriminatory acts occurred. Id.

---

<sup>4</sup>Courts apply federal case law dealing with Title VII claims to the FCRA because the FCRA is patterned after Title VII. See Harper v. Blockbuster Entertainment Corp., 139 F.3d 1385, 1388 (11th Cir. 1998). Therefore, if this Court limits recovery for Count I by Plaintiff’s resignation date, it must also do so for Count IV.

When an employee voluntarily quits her job, the employer's liability for back pay, and likewise front pay, ends at the date of the resignation. See Morrison, 828 F.2d at 709; Key v. Bender Shipbuilding & Repair Co., Civil Action No. 1:98-1123-RV-C, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 10122, \*3-\*4 (S.D. Ala. July 10, 2000). In Morrison, the plaintiff brought a failure to promote case when the plaintiff had voluntarily quit. The jury returned a verdict in favor of Plaintiff on the failure to promote claim but the court directed a verdict on the constructive discharge claim. The court then limited the damages to back pay from the date the promotion would have taken place until the date of Plaintiff's resignation. Morrison, 828 F.2d at 710 n.1.

In this case, it is undisputed that Plaintiff resigned on June 29, 1998. (Ex. "B"). To the extent Plaintiff succeeds in this matter, Defendant DOC's responsibilities for damages ends on June 29, 1998. Plaintiff's damages -- including back pay, front pay and/or reinstatement -- are barred after June 29, 1998 because she voluntarily resigned. See Morrison, 828 F.2d at 709, see also Nance v. Maxwell Federal Credit Union, 186 F.3d 1338 (11th Cir. 1999) (holding that Plaintiff is not entitled to front pay if she voluntarily resigned and was not constructively discharged). As described above in Section II-D, Defendant is entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law on Plaintiff's constructive discharge claim. This Court also should enter a partial summary judgment as to any damages that occurred after June 29, 1998 because Plaintiff cannot state a claim for these damages as a matter of law.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**


For the foregoing reasons, Counts I and IV must be dismissed as a matter of law because there are no genuine issues of material facts in dispute, and Defendant DOC is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. In the alternative, Defendant DOC is entitled to a partial motion for summary judgment on Plaintiff's claims for punitive damages and damages arising after June 29, 1998.

Blanco v. Moore, etc., et al.  
CASE NO. 00-6006-CIV-ZLOCH  
Page 21

Respectfully submitted,

KUBICKI DRAPER  
Attorneys for Defendants  
City National Bank Building  
25 West Flagler Street, PH  
Miami, Florida 33130  
Tel. (305) 982-6612  
Fax. (305) 374-7846

By:

  
ELIZABETH M. RODRIGUEZ  
Florida Bar No. 821690

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing Defendant DOC's Motion for Summary Judgment was sent by and by U S Mail this 16th day of July, 2001, to: ANDREW S. HENSCHEL, ESQ., Henschel and Henschel, P.A., 951 NE 167 Street, Suite 205, North Miami Beach, FL 33162

  
ELIZABETH M. RODRIGUEZ

STATE OF FLORIDA

REPORT OF PERSONNEL ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS  
DIVISION IV- REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
RELOCATION & PAROLE SERVICES

EMPLOYED  
03/28/92

EMPLOYEE BLANCO, CARMEN D

FROM

TO

## EMPLOYEE

## EMPLOYEE

SOCIAL SECURITY # POS # POS FTE SVC EFFECTIVE DATE

SOCIAL SECURITY # POS # POS FTE SVC EFFECTIVE DATE

EMPLOYEE NAME

EMPLOYEE NAME

COPES ORGANIZATION

BLANCO, CARMEN D

COPES ORGANIZATION

703040901704 ANDREWS OFFICE

APPOINTMENT TYPE APPOINTMENT STATUS STATUS EXPIRE

APPOINTMENT TYPE APPOINTMENT STATUS STATUS EXPIRE

ORIGINAL PROBATIONARY 03/13/92

PAY PLAN CLASS CBU INCL ANNU DATE

PAY PLAN CLASS CBU INCL ANNU DATE

CAREER SERVICE 0090 01 INC 03/13

OFFICIAL CLASS TITLE

OFFICIAL CLASS TITLE

WORD PROCESSING SYSTEMS OPERATOR

## ACTION

## ACTION

01 ORIGINAL

## PAY

## PAY

BASE RATE RATE HR BASE HR RATE FTE

TYPE BASE RATE RATE HR BASE HR RATE FTE

CAD LEADWORKER SHIFT ON CALL CONTACT OTHER

CAD LEADWORKER SHIFT ON CALL CONTACT OTHER

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INTER DEPT.

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SAMAS ORGANIZATION

70039017400 ANDREWS OFFICE PROBATION &amp; P

## LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

## LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

HOURS FROM TO

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## LOCATION

## LOCATION

LOCATION HEADQUARTER COUNTY

LOCATION HEADQUARTER COUNTY

PHYSICAL COUNTY

06 BROWARD

PHYSICAL COUNTY

06 BROWARD

## SEPARATIONS AND TERMINAL LEAVE

REASON FOR SEPARATION

ANNUAL

SICK PRE 73

POST 73

SPC COMP

ANNUAL PAID

SICK PAID

SPECIAL COMP PAID

COMMENTS

QUESTED BY

DATE

APPROVAL

DATE

03/16/92  
3-30-92

LOCATION 11-4 EFFECTIVE DATE 3/13/92  
BLANCO CARMEN DELIA [REDACTED]  
(LAST NAME) (FIRST NAME) (MIDDLE INITIAL) (SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER)

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT: CS ☒ OPS \_\_\_\_\_ SMS \_\_\_\_\_ SES \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ACTION:

☒ ORIGINAL  
\_\_\_\_ PROMOTION  
\_\_\_\_ DEMOTION  
\_\_\_\_ REASSIGNMENT  
\_\_\_\_ TERMINATION  
\_\_\_\_ LEAVE WITHOUT PAY  
\_\_\_\_ RETURN FROM LEAVE OF  
\_\_\_\_ ABSENCE W/O PAY  
\_\_\_\_ OTHER

FROM		TO
	CLASS TITLE	WPSO
	CLASS CODE	0090
	POSITION NUMBER	21210
	*RATE OF PAY	547.78
	STATUS	PROB.

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_ TO BE COMPLETED BY PERSONNEL  
\_\_\_\_ RECRUITMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ COPIES \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ CHANGE ORDERS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK

RECOMMENDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERVISOR  
APPOINTING AUTHORITY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
PERSONNEL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES CIRCUIT 17-0

MEMO TO: GRACE FISHTER, CPSS  
FROM: KAREN McDONALD, WPSO SUP  
DATE: JULY 1, 1998  
SUBJECT: EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE 6/29/98  
MS. CARMEN BLANCO #09312

---

Please be advised that on the above date, this writer received a faxed copy of Ms. Carmen Blanco's resignation effective June 29, 1998. Please see attached.

Karen McDonald  
Karen McDonald, WPSO SUP

cc: Barry Groves, CPDA  
Gary Rogatz, CPSCA  
Personnel File

QUALITY IS CONTAGIOUS



MEMO TO: KAREN McDONALD  
WPSS

FROM: CARMEN BLANCO  
WPSO

DATE: June 29, 1998

SUBJECT: CAREER GRIEVANCE REGARDING- INDIRECT RETALIATION,  
HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION.

Ms. McDonald, We all have choices to make. We can stand up for what is right or we can join others in doing what is wrong. I believe in doing the "Right Thing". All those memos that Ms. Fichter put in my file while I was out on sick leave must be addressed with higher authorities.

Until there is an investigation from an independent agency, regarding the unethical and unprofessional behavior towards me. I Carmen Blanco resign from the Department of Corrections as of June 29, 1998.

I am confident, that in a Court of Law the "Right Thing" will be done.  
Sincerely,

*Carmen Blanco*

Carmen Blanco  
WPSO

cc: E. E. O. C.  
Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_

CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION

AGENCY CHARGE NUMBER  
 15A980402  
 This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974; see Privacy Act Statement on back of this form.

Broward County Human Rights Division and EEOC  
 State or local Agency, if any

NAME (Indicate Mr., Ms., Mrs.) HOME TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)  
 Ms. Carmen D. Blanco (954) 979-4689

STREET ADDRESS CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE DATE OF BIRTH  
 1740 S. W. 70 Avenue, Pompano Beach, FL 33068-4358 07/09/50

NAMED IS THE EMPLOYER, LABOR ORGANIZATION, EMPLOYMENT AGENCY APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE, STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHO DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ME (If more than one list below.)

NAME NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, MEMBERS TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)  
 Department Of Corrections 15 - 100 Employees (954) 467-4645

STREET ADDRESS CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE COUNTY  
 Ten West Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 011

NAME TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)  
 STREET ADDRESS CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE COUNTY

CAUSE OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON (Check appropriate box(es)) DATE DISCRIMINATION TOOK PLACE  
 EARLIEST LATEST  
☐ RACE ☐ COLOR ☐ SEX ☐ RELIGION ☒ NATIONAL ORIGIN  
☒ RETALIATION ☐ AGE ☐ DISABILITY ☐ OTHER (Specify)  
 04/18/98 04/18/98  
☒ CONTINUING ACTION

THE PARTICULARS ARE (If additional space is needed, attach extra sheet(s)):

1. I have been employed by the Respondent since 3/12/92 as a Word Processor. I filed a complaint with the Respondent about being discriminated against in July, 1993 and 1996. In retaliation, I have been further discriminated against and treated differently because of my National Origin by denying me equal wages and failure to promote. I have been harassed continually since July, 1993 to the present by exposing me to a hostile, continuous and pervasive environment. I am Puerto Rican.
2. The Respondent has informed me that they do not have to give a reason for exposing me to differential treatment.
3. I believe that I have been discriminated against in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 704a, and the Florida Civil Rights Act (Chapter 760).

NOTARY PUBLIC  
 MICHAEL BURNETT  
 STATE OF FLORIDA  
 ATLANTIC BUSINESS CO. INC.

Fla. Dkt. R-452-1014-90-749-0

☒ I want this charge filed with both the EEOC and the State or local Agency, if any. I will advise the agencies if I change my address or telephone number and cooperate fully with them in the processing of my charge in accordance with their procedures.  
 NOTARY (When necessary, for State and Local Requirements)  
 I swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.  
 SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT  
 X Carmen D. Blanco  
 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS DATE  
 (Day, month, and year)  
 16-July-1998  
 Date 1/6/98 Charging Party (Signature)  
 EEOC FORM 5 (Rev. 06/92)

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Ms. Marian Deadwiley  
Supervisor For Civil Rights  
State Of Fl/Depart. Of Corrections  
2601 Blairstone Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Blanco, Carmen D

THIS PERSON (check one)

☒ CLAIMS TO BE AGGRIEVED☐ IS FILING ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER

DATE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION

Earliest

Most Recent

04/18/98

04/18/98

PLACE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION

Fort Lauderdale, FL

CHARGE NUMBER

15A980402

## NOTICE OF CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION

(See EEOC "Rules and Regulations" before completing this form)

You are hereby notified that a charge of employment discrimination has been filed against your organization under:

☒ TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964☐ THE AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1967☐ THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT☐ THE EQUAL PAY ACT (29 U.S.C. SECT. 206(d)) Investigation will be conducted concurrently with our investigation of this charge.

The boxes checked below apply to your organization:

1. ☐ No action is required on your part at this time.

2. ☒ Please submit by 10/30/98 a statement of your position with respect to the allegation(s) contained in this charge, with copies of any supporting documentation. This material will be made a part of the file and will be considered at the time that we investigate this charge. Your prompt response to this request will make it easier to conduct and conclude our investigation of this charge.

3. ☐ Please respond fully by \_\_\_\_\_ to the attached request for information which pertains to the allegations contained in this charge. Such information will be made a part of the file and will be considered by the Commission during the course of its investigation of the charge.

For further inquiry on this matter, please use the charge number shown above. Your position statement, your response to our request for information, or any inquiry you may have should be directed to:

MIAMI DISTRICT OFFICE  
One Biscayne Tower, Suite 2700  
2 South Biscayne Blvd.  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33131

Nelson Benedico, Supervisor

(Commission Representative)

(305) 536-4776

(Telephone Number)

☒ Enclosure: Copy of Charge

## BASIS OF DISCRIMINATION

☐ RACE ☐ COLOR ☐ SEX ☐ RELIGION ☒ NAT. ORIGIN ☐ AGE ☐ DISABILITY ☒ RETALIATION ☐ OTHER

## CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLEGED VIOLATION

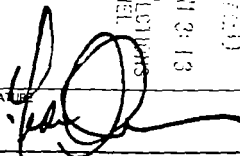
See enclosed Form 5, Charge of Discrimination.

DATE

09/22/98

TYPED NAME/TITLE OF AUTHORIZED EEOC OFFICIAL  
Federico Costales  
Director

SIGNATURE



To: Ms Carmen D. Blanco  
1740 SW 70 Ave.  
Pompano Beach, FL 33068-4358

From: Miami District Office  
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
One Biscayne Tower, Suite 2700  
2 South Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33131-1805



On behalf of a person aggrieved whose identity is  
CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR § 1601.7(a))

Charge Number  
15A 98 0402

EEOC Representative  
Frank J. Burke

Telephone No.  
305 530 6047

**THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**



The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC.



Your allegations did not involve a disability that is covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.



The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.



We cannot investigate your charge because it was not filed within the time limit required by law.



Having been given 30 days in which to respond, you failed to provide information, failed to appear or be available for interviews/conferences, or otherwise failed to cooperate to the extent that it was not possible to resolve your charge.



While reasonable efforts were made to locate you, we were not able to do so.



You had 30 days to accept a reasonable settlement offer that affords full relief for the harm you alleged.



The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtained establishes violations of the statutes. This does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.



The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.



Other (briefly state)

**-- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS --**

(See the additional information attached to this form.)

Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and/or Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may pursue this matter further by bringing suit in federal or state court against the respondent(s) named in the charge. If you decide to sue, you must sue WITHIN 90 DAYS from your receipt of this Notice. Otherwise your right to sue based on the above-numbered charge will be lost.

Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible. (If you file suit, please send a copy of your court complaint to this office.)

On behalf of the Commission

OCT 05 1999

(Date Mailed)

For Federico Costales, District Director

cc:

Margaret Chriswan  
Employee Relations  
Department of Corrections  
2601 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500

RECEIVED  
DEPT OF CORRECTIONS  
PERSONNEL  
99 OCT -7 AM 11:00

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
3 FORT LAUDERDALE DIVISION

4 CASE NO. 00-6006-CIV-ZLOCH

5 MAGISTRATE JUDGE SELTZER

6 CARMEN BLANCO, )

7 Plaintiff, )

8 vs. )

9 MICHAEL W. MOORE, Secretary of )  
10 the FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF )  
11 CORRECTIONS, in his Official )  
12 Capacity, and FLORIDA DEPT. OF )  
13 CORRECTIONS, )

14 Defendants. )  
15 \_\_\_\_\_ )

16 Penthouse, City National Bank Building  
17 25 West Flagler Street  
18 Miami, Florida  
19 Friday, March 16, 2001  
20 11:00 a.m.

21 DEPOSITION OF

22 CARMEN BLANCO

23  
24  
25 SHIPANO COURT REPORTING

1 APPEARANCES:

2 HENSCHEL & HENSCHEL, P.A.  
3 By: DREW BEINHAKER, ESQ.  
4 On behalf of the Plaintiff

5 KUBICKI DRAPER  
6 By: PETER J. OPPENHEIMER, ESQ.  
7 On behalf of the Defendants

8 - - -

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1           The deposition of CARMEN BLANCO, a witness of  
2   lawful age, taken for the purpose of discovery and for  
3   use as evidence in the above-styled cause, pending in  
4   the United States District Court for the Southern  
5   District of Florida, Fort Lauderdale Division,  
6   pursuant to notice, before Kathryn E. Oliver,  
7   Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the  
8   State of Florida at Large, at the time and place  
9   aforesaid.

10                           I N D E X

11   WITNESS

PAGE

12   CARMEN BLANCO

13           Direct (By Mr. Oppenheimer)

4

14                           EXHIBITS

15   Defendants' No. 1

101

16                           - - -

1     Thereupon:

2                             CARMEN BLANCO

3     the Plaintiff herein, was called as a witness by the  
4     Defendants and, having been first duly sworn, was  
5     examined and testified as follows:

6                             DIRECT EXAMINATION

7     BY MR. OPPENHEIMER:

8             Q.     Can you please state and spell your name  
9     for the record?

10            A.     Carmen, C-a-r-m-e-n, D. Blanco, B-l-a-n-c-  
11     o. D is my initial, middle initial.

12            Q.     Miss Blanco, my name is Peter Oppenheimer  
13     and I've been retained by the defendant in this  
14     matter. And I'm going to ask you some questions  
15     today. Have you ever had your deposition taken  
16     before?

17            A.     No.

18            Q.     I'm going to ask you a series of questions,  
19     I'm sure your attorney has told you if you don't know  
20     the answer just tell me you don't know, it's perfectly  
21     fine. Neither of us want you guessing at answers.  
22     Also, if you don't hear something or don't understand  
23     what I'm asking you please state so and I'll restate  
24     the question for you. If I ask a question and you  
25     answer it I'm going to assume that you heard the



1 Q. And first marriage?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When were you married?

4 A. 11/22 of '72. 31 years. I'm sorry, I know  
5 it's in November.

6 November 22 of 1972.

7 Q. Have you ever been known by any names other  
8 than Carmen Blanco?

9 A. No.

10 Q. What is your maiden name?

11 A. My maiden name is Garcia.

12 Q. And what is your age currently?

13 A. I am 50 years old.

14 Q. Your date of birth?

15 A. 7/9/50.

16 Q. Where were you born?

17 A. I was born in Puerto Rico.

18 Q. When did you come to Florida?

19 A. In 1979.

20 Q. Had you lived in Puerto Rico up to that  
21 time?

22 A. No. I came to the United States when I was  
23 three years old.

24 Q. And where in the United States did you go  
25 to?

1 A. New York.

2 Q. When did you move to Florida?

3 A. 1979.

4 Q. What is your Social Security number?

5 A. [REDACTED].

6 Q. And what is your current home phone number?

7 A. [REDACTED]

8 Q. [REDACTED]

9 A. Um-hmm. Yes.

10 Q. You'll do that a bunch of times, it's okay.

11 Is that area code 305?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And what is your current address?

14 A. [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 Q. I'm sorry?

17 A. [REDACTED]

18 Q. And you have a 305 area code?

19 A. When you said area code you--

20 Q. The area code for your home phone, home

21 phone number.

22 A. Oh, I'm sorry, [REDACTED] It used to be [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 Q. Is this a house?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How long have you lived there?

2 A. 1984.

3 Q. And do you own that house?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Who do you live with at that location?

6 A. My husband.

7 Q. Anyone else?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Do you currently have a valid State of  
10 Florida driver's license?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you have any criminal sanctions pending  
15 against you as we sit here today?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Do you have any children?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Can you briefly go through your educational  
20 background with me?

21 A. I graduated high school.

22 Q. Where was that?

23 A. In New York. I went to Broward Community  
24 College and I went to FIU, so total I have three years  
25 and a half of university.

1 Q. Do you have any degrees?

2 A. No, not yet. I'm working on that.

3 Q. Are you currently in school?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Do you hold any professional licenses?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Besides the lawsuit we're here over today,

8 have you ever been a party to any other lawsuits,

9 whether as a plaintiff or a defendant?

10 A. No, that--you're talking about civil?

11 Q. Any type of lawsuits.

12 A. I was in a car accident, but it wasn't me

13 against anyone, it was that the guy hit me and I

14 had--he had to pay for my car damages.

15 Q. Do you know if you filed a lawsuit in

16 regards to that?

17 A. Yes, of course I had an attorney with that.

18 Q. Is that currently going on?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Were you injured in that lawsuit?

21 A. Yes, I was.

22 Q. Who is your attorney for that lawsuit?

23 A. Roselli.

24 Q. Chris Roselli?

25 A. Um-hmm.

1 Q. And when did that accident occur?

2 A. 1998.

3 Q. What were your injuries?

4 A. Excuse me?

5 Q. What were your injuries?

6 A. My neck and my back and my knee, my left  
7 knee.

8 Q. Aside from that one auto matter, have you  
9 ever been involved in any other lawsuits besides this  
10 case?

11 A. That wasn't the only accident I had, there  
12 were other accidents I've had.

13 Q. Were there other lawsuits regarding other  
14 accidents?

15 A. The two. There was another one before that  
16 in 1997, and the same thing, they hit my bumper.

17 Q. Were you injured in that one?

18 A. Just my neck.

19 Q. Did you file a lawsuit?

20 A. Yeah. Well, Roselli's handling both cases.

21 Q. They're both still ongoing?

22 A. Yeah, they're both still ongoing.

23 Q. Aside from those two lawsuits and the one  
24 we're here over today--

25 A. That's it.

1 Q. --have you been involved in any others?

2 A. No, that's it.

3 Q. Have you been deposed in those cases, do  
4 you have depositions scheduled? Something like this,  
5 similar to this deposition?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Are you claiming any physical injuries as a  
8 result of your treatment with the Department of  
9 Corrections?

10 A. Well, I'm not claiming, no. Not physical.

11 Q. No physical injuries claimed?

12 A. Not physical. When you say physical you  
13 mean hurt, right?

14 Q. Yes, physically, whether--

15 A. No.

16 Q. --problems, pains anywhere in your body.  
17 You're claiming mental anguish?

18 A. Well, let me--I went through a lot of  
19 emotional stress there.

20 Q. I'm talking about physical injuries aside  
21 from emotional.

22 A. No.

23 Q. None?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And you are claiming emotional injuries as

1 a result of your treatment--

2 A. I had to go to the doctor, yes.

3 Q. Are you claiming emotional injuries as a  
4 result of the first car accident we mentioned which is  
5 the 1998 lawsuit?

6 A. Emotional, no, that has nothing to do with  
7 it.

8 Q. How about in the prior accidents' lawsuits,  
9 are you claiming emotional injuries in those?

10 A. You know, I really don't know. Because the  
11 attorney's the one that's handling that and I know the  
12 suffering I was put through, but I really don't know  
13 that, what he's--it hasn't been settled yet.

14 Q. Do you believe you suffered emotional  
15 injuries in the 1998 car accident?

16 MR. BEINHAKER: Objection, asked and  
17 answered.

18 You can answer it.

19 A. Do I have to answer? I don't--emotional?  
20 I think, you know, this is something that it doesn't--  
21 when you're in an accident you do get emotional. So  
22 what you're asking me, am I claiming that, I don't  
23 know if the claim--if it's needed to do that I'll do  
24 that.

25 Q. Well, my question is, in your opinion as we

1 sit here today did you suffer emotional injuries in  
2 the 1998 lawsuit?

3 A. Emotional injuries. I got worried, yes.

4 Q. Anything besides getting worried?

5 A. You go through the nervousness of the body  
6 and you go through all that.

7 Q. Subsequent to the accident itself, say a  
8 couple weeks later continuing on until today, have you  
9 continued to suffer emotional injuries from that 1998  
10 accident?

11 A. No.

12 Q. The 1997 accident, do you believe you  
13 suffered emotional injuries in that one?

14 A. Yes, you do--if you--yes. Yes.

15 Q. Do you believe you're still suffering  
16 emotional injuries as a result of that 1997 accident  
17 as we sit here today?

18 A. I think so, yes, because when I hear a  
19 siren I get scared.

20 Q. Do you know who the defendant is in the  
21 1998 accident?

22 A. I don't, no.

23 Q. How about in the 1997 accident?

24 A. I don't remember.

25 Q. What is the make of the current vehicle you



1 drive?

2 A. A Toyota, '96.

3 Q. What model Toyota?

4 A. Corolla.

5 Q. Color?

6 A. Green.

7 Q. Have you ever been a member of a union?

8 A. No.

9 Q. What was your date of separation from the  
10 Department of Corrections?

11 A. I don't remember the exact date.

12 Q. Does June 29th, 1998 sound correct?

13 A. Yeah, that sounds correct.

14 Q. Have you filled out any employment applica-  
15 tions since June 29th of 1998?

16 A. With the department or--

17 Q. With anyone.

18 A. In general? Yes, I work for a temporary  
19 agency right now.

20 Q. Did you have to fill out an application  
21 with the temp agency?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. What's the name of that temp agency?

24 A. Unique Temporary.

25 Q. Do you know what their phone number is?

1 A. No. I don't know it offhand.

2 Q. Where are they located?

3 A. I believe it's in Pembroke Pines.

4 Q. Do you remember when you filled out that  
5 application?

6 A. About a year ago.

7 Q. Sometime in the year 2000?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. And other than Unique Temporary located  
10 somewhere in Pembroke Pines, have you filled out  
11 employment applications with any other persons or  
12 companies, entities, since--

13 A. The separation date?

14 MR. BEINHAKER: Let him finish the question  
15 before you answer.

16 Go ahead.

17 Q. Any other employment applications with any-  
18 body since June 29th--

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. --of 1998?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Who else?

23 A. I can't recall. But I did go, I did fill  
24 other employment applications.

25 Q. You don't know any of them as we sit here

1       today?

2           A.     No, I don't remember. I went to several  
3       interviews for a job.

4           Q.     Do you remember anywhere you interviewed  
5       at?

6           A.     Not really. Because I went to--mainly it  
7       was temporary agencies, then if I would see an article  
8       in the newspaper I would probably just pick out and  
9       go. I don't remember because they never--if they  
10      didn't call me back, I didn't go back for a second, I  
11      would just kind of dismiss it if they didn't call me  
12      back.

13          Q.     Did you start doing work through Unique  
14      Temporary in the year 2000?

15          A.     Yes.

16          Q.     From 1998 through the year 2000 did you  
17      work for anyone else?

18          A.     For--not really, it was a temporary agency.  
19      It was also, I think, Unique, but then they moved.

20          Q.     You need to listen to the questions please.  
21      The question is between 1998, your separation date,  
22      June of 1998 and your beginning work through Unique  
23      Temporary sometime in the year 2000, did you work for  
24      anyone else?

25          A.     Yes. I'm telling you, yes.

1 Q. Who else did you work for?

2 A. Who else? Let me see. I can't recall the  
3 name. I just can't recall the name. I remember work-  
4 ing.

5 Q. You can't recall anybody you worked for  
6 between your date of separation and when you started  
7 with Unique Temporary?

8 A. No, I can't.

9 Q. Were you paid--

10 A. I can't recall right now, let's put it this  
11 way.

12 Q. Were you paid by check?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Were you paid by cash for any of them?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Were these other temporary agencies or were  
17 they companies that hired you directly?

18 A. Temporary agency.

19 Q. What temp agencies did you work for during  
20 this time?

21 A. There was one called Personnel or something  
22 Personnel.

23 Q. Any others?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And about how many different employers did

1     you work for from your date of separation until the  
2     year 2000 when you started with Unique Temporary?

3             A.     About two.

4             Q.     You don't remember the names of either of  
5     them?

6             A.     No.

7             Q.     And who have you worked for through Unique  
8     Temporary since starting to get jobs through them in  
9     the year 2000?

10            A.     I worked for Republic Bank, basically it  
11     was Republic Bank. And now I'm at Nurre Caxton, a  
12     company called Nurre Caxton.

13            Q.     Can you spell that?

14            A.     N-u-r-r-e C-a-x-t-o-n.

15            Q.     Any others besides Republic Bank and Nurre  
16     Caxton?

17            A.     That's it.

18            Q.     Let's start out with Republic Bank. Do you  
19     remember the approximate times you worked for Republic  
20     Bank?

21            A.     No.

22            Q.     Was that the first job you received through  
23     Unique Temporary?

24            A.     I'm not sure if that was the first. No.  
25     I'm not sure.

1 Q. You don't know whether--

2 A. I don't know how to answer this because I  
3 don't recall exactly.

4 Q. What did you do for Republic?

5 A. I worked in the collection department.

6 Q. What was your rate of pay?

7 A. I think I started something like \$8 an  
8 hour, something like that.

9 Q. How long did you work for them?

10 A. Approximately eight months or something  
11 like that.

12 Q. And was your job the same for that entire  
13 eight months?

14 A. Basically.

15 Yes.

16 Q. Did your rate of pay change at all during  
17 that eight months?

18 A. I'm sorry?

19 Q. Did your rate of pay change at all through-  
20 out that eight months?

21 A. I think, yes, after--almost towards the end  
22 they put it at \$10 an hour.

23 Q. And what location of Republic did you work  
24 at?

25 A. It was in downtown Fort Lauderdale next to

1 the library. I don't remember the exact address.

2 Q. Who was your supervisor?

3 A. I don't remember his name.

4 Q. Do you remember any of the names of the co-  
5 workers you worked with there?

6 A. No.

7 Well, there was a girl called--I remember  
8 one girl called Cathy Mohammed or something like that.

9 Q. Why did you leave that position?

10 A. I think they were moving. I didn't leave  
11 that position, they kind of like told people they have  
12 to start looking for another job because they were  
13 moving to some state in the middle of--

14 Q. Were you laid off, is that what you're  
15 trying to say?

16 A. Yeah, I think so, yeah. That came out in  
17 the newspaper. They moved to a different state or  
18 something like that.

19 Q. Did you receive any benefits from them?

20 A. No, not really.

21 Q. What were your exact duties?

22 A. Calling up customers and putting--sort of  
23 like accounts receivable, mainly, whatever duties go  
24 with accounts receivable.

25 Q. And the job with Nurra Caxton?

1 A. That's also the accounting department.

2 Q. When did you start with them?

3 A. About a year ago. I don't remember the  
4 exact date.

5 Q. Are you still working for them now?

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 Q. Where are they located?

8 A. They're located in Sunrise Boulevard.

9 Q. What kind of company are they?

10 A. A frame company.

11 Q. I'm sorry?

12 A. Frame.

13 Q. Like artwork type frame?

14 A. Yeah, artwork.

15 Q. Is this a store or is it--

16 A. This is a company. It's a company.

17 Q. And what is your pay?

18 A. \$10 an hour.

19 Q. And has that remained the same--

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. --since you began approximately a year ago?

22 A. Yes. Because it's the temp agency now,  
23 this is through the temp agency. I work--

24 Q. Do you receive any benefits?

25 A. --for the temp agency.



1                   No, no benefits.

2           Q.     Who's your supervisor?

3           A.     His name is John Bartell.

4           Q.     Are there any co-workers you work with on a  
5 regular basis?

6           A.     There's three people there.

7           Q.     What are their names?

8           A.     Christine, Madeliene, and Angela, a new  
9 girl that started there.

10          Q.     Do you know any of their last names?

11          A.     Madeliene Rose was one of them.

12          Q.     R-o-s-e?

13          A.     Right. The other one is Alvarez, Angela  
14 Alvarez. And--

15          Q.     Do you know Christine's last name?

16          A.     Marino; I'm not sure.

17          Q.     What are your actual duties that you have  
18 at Nurre Caxton?

19          A.     It's accounts receivable.

20          Q.     What does that include?

21          A.     That includes putting data into the  
22 computer, word processing, accounts receivable.  
23 Everything that entails accounts receivable.

24          Q.     Have you worked for anyone else besides  
25 these two entities--

1           A.     No, then it was the Department of Correc-  
2     tions.

3           Q.     So nobody else since your separation date  
4     from the Department of Corrections?

5           A.     No, nobody else.

6           Q.     Who did you work for prior to the Depart-  
7     ment of Corrections?

8           A.     Well, it was also a personnel agency, I  
9     think it was Personnel Pool.

10          Q.     Personnel Pool?

11          A.     Um-hmm.

12          Q.     What were the dates of that?

13          A.     I can't recall. This is going back.

14          Q.     Approximately.

15          A.     19--maybe 1991 or maybe 1989, someplace  
16     around there. From '89 to '92 when I started with the  
17     department I was having like part-time jobs because I  
18     was going to school. So I would take different part-  
19     time jobs.

20          Q.     Do you remember anyone you worked for?

21          A.     They sent me to so many different places.

22          Q.     Do you know the names of any of them?

23          A.     Discount Auto Parts. These are like  
24     temporary jobs. I don't remember most of them.

25          Q.     Do you remember the names of any of the

1 others you worked for aside from Discount Auto Parts?

2 A. I'm pretty sure I did but I don't remember  
3 the names. They were short-term assignments. I don't  
4 remember.

5 Q. Prior to starting with Personnel Pool do  
6 you remember who you worked for?

7 A. I can't recall.

8 Q. Do you remember any of the employers you  
9 worked for prior to Personnel Pool?

10 A. No. No, because when I left a job--no.

11 Q. Did you ever file any claim of discrimina-  
12 tion with anyone, any type of complaint with any  
13 employer prior to working at the Department of  
14 Corrections?

15 A. No. Not that I can recall. No.

16 Q. Have you filed any complaints since working  
17 at the Department of Corrections regarding any  
18 employer aside from the Department of Corrections  
19 itself--

20 A. No.

21 Q. --any complaints of discrimination?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Have you ever been terminated from a job?

24 A. No. Not that I can recall.

25 Q. Pardon?

1           A.     I can't recall. But I'm pretty--I don't  
2 recall ever being terminated from a job.

3           Q.     Do you currently own a cell phone?

4           A.     Yes, I do.

5           Q.     What's the number?

6           A.     Well, no, no. Me, under my name, no, I  
7 don't.

8           Q.     Your husband does, I take it?

9           A.     Yeah, my husband does.

10          Q.     Do you ever use that cell phone, keep it  
11 with you?

12          A.     Yes, I do.

13          Q.     What's the number for that cell phone?

14          A.     It's [REDACTED]

15          Q.     [REDACTED] area code?

16          A.     Right.

17          Q.     Did you file tax returns for the five  
18 years, the five calendar years prior to beginning with  
19 the Department of Corrections--

20          A.     I file my taxes--

21          Q.     --in 1992?

22          A.     I file my taxes every year.

23          Q.     Do you have copies of those tax returns at  
24 home, do you know?

25          A.     Um-hmm.

1 Q. Yes?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you know how far back--

4 A. I should get them, yes.

5 Q. Do you know how far back the tax returns  
6 you have at your house go?

7 A. About ten years.

8 Q. So if we were to request you to produce  
9 those would it be a problem?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Is your husband currently employed?

12 A. He's retired, my husband.

13 Q. How long has he been retired?

14 A. I don't know the exact time, but he's been  
15 retired--can I do an approximation maybe?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Eight years, something like that.

18 Q. How old is your husband?

19 A. He's 76.

20 Q. And what did he retire from?

21 A. Bookkeeper.

22 Q. Does he currently get any benefits pursuant  
23 to his retirement?

24 A. From what?

25 Q. Pursuant to his retirement does he get

1       benefits?

2           A.     Well, he gets--I don't know how much,  
3       that's what he's supposed to get.

4           Q.     Is it Social Security or does he have a  
5       retirement plan?

6           A.     What do they call that, Medicare, he has  
7       Medicare and he has the benefits that they allocate to  
8       everybody when they retire after 65. I don't know  
9       what it is now, but that's what he gets.

10          Q.     What are your current sources of income as  
11       we sit here today, your temporary job, aside from  
12       that? If you have any.

13          A.     I don't have any other income. My  
14       temporary position.

15          Q.     What is your top year of income over the  
16       last five calendar years which would have been 2000,  
17       '99, '98, '97 or '96?

18          A.     An estimate you're saying?

19          Q.     Yes.

20          A.     Maybe 17 per year or something like that.

21          Q.     What year was that? Would that have been  
22       while you worked for the Department of Corrections?

23          A.     Right, while I worked for the Department of  
24       Corrections.

25                 I think 14, 17, I don't know. I really

1 don't know.

2 Q. Are you making a claim of lost wages as a  
3 result of your treatment at the Department of  
4 Corrections that you've alleged in your complaint?

5 MR. BEINHAKER: Objection, calls for a  
6 legal conclusion.

7 You can go ahead and answer it if you can.

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. You don't know if you're making a claim for  
10 lost wages?

11 A. Well, what I'm saying is that I did lose  
12 wages, but that will be something that will be--I  
13 don't know, I don't know what to tell you. I mean I  
14 did lose wages.

15 Q. And that would start with your date of  
16 separation in June of 1998 or would it be any time  
17 before that?

18 A. No, June of '98, because that's when I  
19 left, I believe.

20 Q. Can you quantify what you believe your lost  
21 wages are from June of 1998 when you have stated they  
22 started until today?

23 A. You know, I think they were paying me back  
24 then \$8 an hour, I think, or seven, something like  
25 that.

1 Q. So your lost wages is going to be that  
2 seven or eight dollars?

3           A.     14,000 a year or something like that.

4 Q. It's going to be the hourly rate by 40  
5 hours a week by however many weeks you've missed since  
6 June of 1998? Is that what you believe your lost  
7 wages are as of today?

8                   A.     Yes.

9 O. Is that a yes?

10                   A.     Yes.

11           That question that you asked me, can you be  
12   a little bit more specific? Because are you saying  
13   during the time, the whole time that I worked for the  
14   department?

15 Q. Any lost wages you're claiming as we sit  
16 here today.

17           A.     Okay, so that would be from '98 to today,  
18     yes. And benefits, you know, I don't have insurance,  
19     health insurance right now. Because temporary  
20     agencies don't give you that.

21 Q. As far as the actual dollar amount, can you  
22 quantify a dollar amount as we sit here today for your  
23 total lost wages you are claiming up to today?

24 MR. BEINHAKER: Same objection.

25 MR. OPPENHEIMER: What's your objection?



1 MR. BEINHAKER: It calls for a legal con-  
2 clusion.

3 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Calls for a legal con-  
4 clusion if she can quantify what her lost wages  
5 are as of today?

6 MR. BEINHAKER: She has to interpret what  
7 type of wages, what benefits, all those type of  
8 things.

9 MR. OPPENHEIMER: I'm talking about just  
10 dollar amounts. Do you still have an objection  
11 to that?

12 MR. BEINHAKER: Yes, same objection.

13 Q. You can answer if you know.

14 A. I really don't know. You know, it's hard  
15 to say the amount, I can't put a figure.

16 Q. What benefits have you lost?

17 A. I lost the--I think they had a lot of plans  
18 with the department that I lost.

19 Q. Can you identify any specific benefits that  
20 you have lost?

21 A. Health insurance I lost, there were like--  
22 programs that I can't even remember right now within  
23 the department that would help you save money and grow  
24 within the company, and if you would take some money  
25 out of your salary the department would put too.

1 Different programs that at this point I can't recall.

2 Q. Any other benefits?

3 A. They had educational benefits there that  
4 they would pay for your tuition when you went to  
5 school, I lost that.

6 Q. Any others?

7 A. I can't recall anything else.

8 Q. Between your date of hire in 1992 and your  
9 date of separation in 1998 did you ever apply for any  
10 educational benefits?

11 A. I did. And they used to give you like  
12 waivers, but--

13 Q. Did you ever exercise any of those--

14 A. No.

15 Q. --educational benefits that you were  
16 entitled to?

17 A. I applied, but I never got them.

18 Q. Do you know why?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did you ever check out why you didn't  
21 receive them? Did you ever call anybody, find out?

22 A. I guess there was seniority, I don't know  
23 why, but I think they would pick a certain group to go  
24 to these universities and then that's it.

25 Q. Do you believe you didn't get any of these

1       benefits because you were discriminated against?

2           A.     I think so, yes.

3           Q.     Do you have any proof of that?

4           A.     I might have copies of the applications  
5       that I put and never got a response.

6           Q.     Do you know if you have any copies?

7           A.     I'm not sure, but I used to keep copies. I  
8       might have copies.

9           Q.     The applications or the denials?

10          A.     I don't know exactly what they were, but  
11       I'm pretty sure when I used to apply--I'm into the  
12       habit of making copies when I apply to something.

13          Q.     What are your claims of discrimination  
14       based on as we sit here today? Is it age, sex, race,  
15       religion, color, creed, what are they that you believe  
16       as we sit here today?

17          A.     I think it's because of my being Puerto  
18       Rican.

19          Q.     Your nationality?

20          A.     I believe so, yes.

21          Q.     Now, is it being Puerto Rican or being  
22       Hispanic?

23          A.     I can say--I don't know how they term it,  
24       but I'm Spanish. I don't know how they term it, but  
25       I'm Spanish and I'm Puerto Rican.

1           Q.     Do you believe your discrimination that  
2     you're claiming is based on the fact that you're  
3     Hispanic in general, categorized that way, or you are  
4     Puerto Rican within the Hispanic categorization and  
5     that is what your discrimination is based on, as  
6     opposed to being Cuban or being from a country in  
7     South or Central America?

8           A.     No, I think it was both.

9           Q.     These educational benefits which you didn't  
10    receive, do you know if anybody who is of Puerto Rican  
11    descent received those benefits?

12          A.     No, I don't.

13          Q.     Do you know if any Hispanics received  
14    benefits under this educational plan?

15          A.     No. I don't know.

16          Q.     Do you know if any minorities received any  
17    benefits under these plans, any other minorities?

18          A.     The African-Americans, yes, in the depart-  
19    ment got those benefits.

20          Q.     Do you know whose decision it was to award  
21    these benefits or not award them?

22          A.     I think the immediate supervisor would be  
23    the one to approve them or not approve them. And then  
24    they would send them to the regional office to be  
25    approved.

1 Q. And who were your immediate supervisors at  
2 any of the times you applied for these benefits?

3 A. There was lady there named Diana Thompson,  
4 she was a supervisor. There was--McDonald.

5 Q. First name?

6 A. Karen McDonald. There was another, Linda  
7 Scarlett was my supervisor.

8 Q. Any others?

9 A. That's all I can remember. That's it.

10 Q. And do you believe Diana Thompson had  
11 anything to do with you not receiving these education-  
12 al benefits?

13 A. I think so. I think so.

14 Q. How about Karen McDonald?

15 A. I think so.

16 Q. How about Linda Scarlett?

17 A. I think so.

18 I should have said yes.

19 Q. Anyone else besides these three people who  
20 you believe had anything do with your being denied  
21 these educational benefits?

22 A. Mr. Ruegetz (phonetic), course, Mr. Gary  
23 Ruegetz.

24 Q. Anybody else?

25 A. That I can recall, that's all I can recall

1 for now.

2 Q. Do you believe these four people were  
3 directly involved in your denial of educational  
4 benefits while you worked for the Department of  
5 Corrections?

6 A. Yes, I do. There was another person named  
7 Barry Groves.

8 Q. Barry Groves?

9 A. Um-hmm.

10 Q. Was he directly involved?

11 A. Well, he was--he would approve if you  
12 wanted to--if you didn't have his approval you  
13 couldn't go to school.

14 Q. Do you believe he discriminated against you  
15 because of your nationality, Puerto Rican?

16 A. I think so, yes, he did.

17 Q. Anyone else?

18 A. Well, there's Bill Crosby.

19 Q. Do you think he was directly related in  
20 your denial of benefits based on your nationality,  
21 Puerto Rican?

22 A. Yes. Yes.

23 Q. Anyone else?

24 A. I can't recall her name but she was a  
25 supervisor III.

1 Q. I'm sorry?

2 A. I can't recall the person's name, but Miss  
3 McDonald's supervisor. I can't recall her name  
4 exactly.

5 Q. She was directly involved--

6 A. With Miss McDonald, yes.

7 Q. She was directly involved in discriminating  
8 against you?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. Anyone else?

11 A. That's it.

12 Q. If you need to take a break or something,  
13 want to get some water, go to the bathroom, just tell  
14 me and we can stop a minute when you like.

15 A. Yes, I'd like to take a break.

16 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Why don't we take a break  
17 for five minutes.

18 (Brief recess.)

19 Q. Aside from the benefits you've identified  
20 so far, health insurance, certain other programs,  
21 these educational benefits, is there anything else you  
22 can identify as we sit here today?

23 MR. BEINHAKER: Objection to form.

24 You can answer if you can.

25 If you want to be a little more specific,

1           when you say identify, in reference to what?

2           Q.     Any benefits that you believe you have lost  
3     as a result of any discrimination you faced while  
4     being employed by the Department of Corrections.

5           A.     Well, I don't know if I mentioned health  
6     benefits--

7           Q.     You mentioned health, you mentioned  
8     education.

9           A.     They had like retirement plans that I could  
10    have lasted for years and retire from there that I'm  
11    never going to get because I was only there six years.  
12    If that didn't happen I would have been there God  
13    knows how long.

14          Q.     Had you partaken in any retirement plans  
15    prior to your date of separation?

16          A.     You know, I can't recall exactly, but they  
17    used to send us some form of the benefits that were  
18    given to every employee, and I don't have that right  
19    now to be specific with that.

20          Q.     Do you have any of those documents at home,  
21    any of those forms?

22          A.     Yes, I do. I have copies of all of that.  
23    I might have copies of the stubs where it tells you  
24    what benefits I had while I was there.

25          Q.     Any other benefits that you can think of?



1 A. No, I can't think of any right now.

2 Q. Do you believe you lost out on any raises  
3 as a result of your discrimination?

4 A. Well, there was a 10 percent raise every  
5 time you applied for a position, and I could have  
6 gotten some of those positions and I lost that 10  
7 percent raise.

8 Q. How many times did you apply for positions?

9 A. About 11 times.

10 Q. Do you believe you would have gotten a 10  
11 percent raise with each of those 11 promotions had you  
12 gotten them?

13 A. Yes, I think so.

14 Q. And is that a standard 10 percent with each  
15 of those positions?

16 A. That was my understanding, yes.

17 Q. Were any of them the same position or was  
18 it 11 higher-up positions consecutively?

19 A. No, it was like a senior clerk position,  
20 secretary.

21 Q. With any one specifically you would have  
22 gotten 10 percent but it's not 10 percent exponential-  
23 ly as you go up to the next one, next one, next one?

24 A. No, it's as you apply for the position they  
25 would give you the 10 percent, and then eventually as

1 time goes by they would give you a 3 percent raise.  
2 But that will be everybody, that will be the whole  
3 department that would get a 3 percent raise every year  
4 for, they used to call it--

5 Q. Cost of living?

6 A. Cost of living raises.

7 Q. And were some of those promotions, promo-  
8 tions that you applied for, would they be equivalent  
9 to each other, would they be lateral to each other,  
10 the next level up?

11 A. A couple of them were the next level up and  
12 then the other ones were like two levels, maybe, up or  
13 something like that.

14 Q. Do you believe you're going to lose wages  
15 in the future as a result of any discrimination you're  
16 claiming to have suffered while working for the  
17 Department of Corrections?

18 A. Well, you know, in a way when you go to  
19 most of these--the reason why I'm with temporary  
20 agencies, because there you, for example, me for  
21 example--yeah, I feel I have lost, let's put it that  
22 way, yes. Let me answer it just yes.

23 Q. Can you quantify what you believe those  
24 lost wages are in the future as we sit here today?

25 A. If I had not been discriminated against I

1     probably would have been with the department 20 years  
2     like everybody else has, you know, been there, and  
3     gotten--grown more with different trainings and  
4     salary. I probably would have, had I been treated  
5     like the rest, I probably would have been having  
6     better salary and growing with the company.

7           Q.     And can you quantify that? Have you  
8     attempted to quantify what you believe your future  
9     lost wages will amount to as we sit here today?

10           Can you put a dollar amount on it?

11           A.     I really can't put a dollar amount on it,  
12     but I know that if I had not been treated the way I  
13     was I would have been there maybe 20 years.

14           Q.     What's the basis for that belief?

15           A.     Because, the basis for that belief is that  
16     as a human being you work for a living and you don't  
17     want to be jumping around and you want stability and  
18     you want to stay put, you know.

19           Q.     You don't believe you would have attempted  
20     to change jobs with a different company, continue your  
21     education--

22           A.     If they offer you growth within the company  
23     why would anyone want to move, you know. But if they  
24     don't offer you that, of course you're going to leave.

25           Q.     You need to let me finish my question if

1     you would please.

2             A.     Okay.

3             Q.     You said you were denied 11 promotions?

4             A.     Um-hmm.

5             Q.     Let's go through each of them individually.

6     What was the first one you applied for that you can

7     remember?

8             A.     I think it was a secretary position.

9             Q.     Do you know when that was in relation to  
10    when you started working for the Department of  
11    Corrections?

12            A.     I think that was like--something like six  
13    months after I was in the department.

14            Q.     Do you know why you were denied that job?

15            A.     They just gave it to someone else, the  
16    position.

17            Q.     Do you know who they gave it to?

18            A.     I can't recall her name, but I know she  
19    was--she came after me. I was there before her.

20            Q.     Was she a minority?

21            A.     She was an African-American.

22            Q.     Do you know what her qualifications were?

23            A.     She just had high school.

24            Q.     Were you given a reason for being passed  
25    over for this promotion and it going to this African-

1 American person?

2 A. No. Just a letter saying that I didn't get  
3 the position.

4 Q. And who do you believe denied you of this  
5 position and discriminated against you?

6 A. Well, I think it was the supervisors at  
7 17-4, I think, 17-4 was the branch that I started  
8 working at and I was just--

9 Q. One seven four?

10 A. One seven four, yes. 17-4.

11 And this supervisor, Diana Thompson, just  
12 simply told me I wasn't going to get the position.  
13 That it didn't matter what I do, I wasn't going to get  
14 ahead within the department.

15 Q. She told you you wouldn't get the position?

16 A. Yes. Because I wasn't Anglo or I wasn't  
17 African-American. She specifically said--I don't know  
18 if you want me to continue with this.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. She specifically said when there was an  
21 African-American that was manager of that branch that  
22 secretary had to be African-American. And if it was  
23 Anglo it had to be Anglo. It couldn't be anything  
24 else other than that.

25 Oh, and that I couldn't pin all my little

1 to the bulletin board because I wasn't going to get  
2 ahead.

3 Q. You couldn't what?

4 A. Take those little papers that they sent you  
5 through the mail that you didn't get the position and  
6 just pin them to the billboard, because I wasn't going  
7 to get anywhere.

8 Q. What did you do in response to these state-  
9 ments?

10 A. Well, I couldn't believe it, I couldn't  
11 believe what I was hearing. I kept applying, I tried  
12 to think that maybe that wasn't true.

13 Q. After the denial of this secretarial  
14 position did you complain to anybody formally, oral or  
15 written complaint?

16 A. I filed a grievance after so many attempts  
17 to try to--

18 Q. I'm talking about after this first one and  
19 after these comments were supposedly made to you by  
20 Diana Thompson, did you make any type of formal oral  
21 or written complaint?

22 A. I can't recall right now if I did or not.

23 Q. Did you know you were allowed to make a  
24 complaint?

25 A. You're talking within the department was I

1       allowed?

2           Q.     Anywhere. To make a complaint anywhere.

3       Did you know at this time these statements were  
4       supposedly made to you you could make a complaint to  
5       anyone?

6           A.     I didn't--let's put it this way, maybe I  
7       might have known, but when you're new in a job you  
8       don't do that. You just kind of--you try to see if  
9       that's not true. I mean that's how I felt. Give it  
10      time and maybe when they get to know you they don't  
11      treat you this way.

12          Q.     What was the second job you applied for?

13          A.     I think they had positions there that were  
14      lateral positions and then I wanted to just leave, I  
15      felt so bad after that happened that I asked for a  
16      transfer to another branch.

17                 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Can you read me back my  
18      question please.

19                 (Thereupon, the preceding question was read  
20      back by the court reporter as above-recorded.)

21          A.     I think it was another secretary position.

22          Q.     Was this a lateral position or was it a  
23      promotion to a higher position?

24          A.     That one was a promotion.

25          Q.     The first secretarial position, was that

1 lateral or was this a promotion?

2 A. No, that was a promotion.

3 Q. About how long had you been there?

4 A. About a year.

5 Q. Were you denied this position?

6 A. I was sent to that position to try it out.

7 Q. So you received the position and you tried  
8 it out?

9 A. I can't recall exactly how I got that  
10 position. I can't recall exactly.

11 Q. Did you get this secretarial position?

12 A. I got that position, the first three  
13 weeks--yeah, I got the position. I got that position,  
14 but with no increase in salary.

15 Q. How long did you hold that position for?

16 A. Probably--I can't recall. Anywhere from  
17 three to six months. I'm not sure.

18 Q. Do you know if anyone else applied?

19 A. I don't recall how many people applied for  
20 that position.

21 Q. The person you were working for when you  
22 got this position, what was the race or nationality of  
23 that person?

24 A. She was Anglo, I guess. I don't know  
25 exactly what nationality.



1                   If she was Irish or what, I don't know what  
2 she was, Jewish, Irish.

3           Q.     Whose decision was it, if you know, to  
4 allow you to have that position? Was Miss Thompson  
5 involved, some other supervisor?

6           A.     I can't recall exactly who was the one that  
7 authorized that.

8                   Oh, I think it was Mr. Ruegetz, the one  
9 that authorized that. But, okay, you just want me to  
10 answer specifically.

11          Q.     You can go on if you'd like.

12          A.     Well, the reason why I got that position  
13 was because after I told Mr. Ruegetz what Miss  
14 Thompson had said, now I recall, it was sort of like a  
15 transfer type of a promotion, something like that. I  
16 can't recall how he put it exactly. But it was to get  
17 me out of 17-4 to 17-1. Because there was--I wasn't  
18 being treated correctly at 17-4, and they transferred  
19 me immediately. Rather than solving the problem they  
20 take you up and transfer you.

21          Q.     Do you believe you were discriminated  
22 against in getting this promotion at all?

23          A.     I was, yes. Yes.

24          Q.     So you received the promotion you wanted  
25 and you still believe you were discriminated against?

1           A.     I didn't receive the promotion I wanted.  
2     That's not a promotion, to go to a place and you know  
3     that there's a 10 percent increase and they don't give  
4     you that increase, that's not a promotion.

5           Q.     You applied for this job and you received  
6     it without this 10 percent increase and you believe  
7     that was the discrimination, just the not getting the  
8     10 percent increase?

9           A.     No.

10          Q.     What other discrimination was there, if you  
11     applied for this job and you received it without the  
12     increase?

13          A.     Well, the discrimination is that when I got  
14     to this other job they gave me a hard time there too.  
15     That's the discriminatory part.

16          Q.     I'm not talking about what happened after  
17     you got the job. I'm talking about the actual promo-  
18     tion itself. Do you believe you were discriminated  
19     against at all, when you received this promotion you  
20     applied for?

21          A.     Did I believe I was discriminated against,  
22     yes.

23          Q.     What did that discrimination consist of?

24          A.     To the fact that they were just trying to  
25     appease what had happened at 17-4. That's why I got

1       that. I don't believe I got it because they were  
2       trying to promote me.

3           Q.     Do you have any proof of that?

4           A.     I think their records because I complained  
5       within the department. I filed grievances. Yes, I  
6       think there's proof of that.

7           Q.     Do you have any records establishing that  
8       this promotion which you applied for and you got was  
9       done to discriminate against you?

10          A.     Well, the negative way that I was treated,  
11       as far as I'm concerned, is discriminatory towards me.  
12       Because the promotion, you get it when you're going to  
13       excel and I didn't excel at that other place, and I  
14       consider that discriminatory.

15               MR. OPPENHEIMER: Please read me back my  
16       question.

17               If you would listen to it and try to answer  
18       the question I would appreciate it.

19               (Thereupon, the preceding question was read  
20       back by the court reporter as above-recorded.)

21          A.     No, of course not.

22          Q.     Did you file any complaints regarding this  
23       promotion which you applied for and received?

24          A.     Yes.

25          Q.     Written or oral?

1 A. Written. Both. Written and oral.

2 Q. Who was the oral complaint to?

3 A. To Linda Scarlett.

4 Q. What was that complaint?

5 A. Well, the complaint was that she was not  
6 treating me correctly.

7 Q. Who was not treating you correctly?

8 A. Miss Scarlett, Miss Linda Scarlett.

9 Q. You made a complaint to her that she was  
10 not treating you correctly--

11 A. Right.

12 Q. --by granting your wish for a promotion?

13 A. No. You see, the way you're putting it, I  
14 find it not correct, because what I'm saying is that  
15 she did not want me there and she made it clear that  
16 she wanted that position for another girl that was  
17 within that department. And she--

18 Q. Miss Scarlett told you--

19 A. Yes. She made it very clear she did not  
20 want me there. That, I think, I had like three weeks  
21 or something like that to try to--to try to go ahead  
22 and--she used to degrade me, let's put it that way.  
23 See if I could do that position and stuff like that.

24 Q. Did you make a specific complaint to her  
25 about receiving this promotion?

1           A.     I don't recall, no. I don't recall.

2                     Well, she was the one that made it clear to  
3 me, anyway, that she didn't want me there. So--

4           Q.     That's not my question. My question is,  
5 simply, did you make a specific complaint to her,  
6 either oral or written, about receiving this complaint  
7 and you thought it was discriminatory? Receiving the  
8 promotion itself.

9           A.     Receiving the promotion.

10          Q.     Not anything that happened afterwards.

11          A.     No, no.

12          Q.     After you received this promotion, what was  
13 the next promotion you applied for?

14          A.     I think it was a senior clerk position at  
15 17-2 or something like that. In the 17-2 office I  
16 think.

17          Q.     Someone else got that position?

18          A.     No explanation.

19          Q.     How long had you been at DOC by this time?

20          A.     About three months.

21          Q.     Three months longer or three months total?

22          A.     Three months within--I think I stood at  
23 17-1 for three months and I applied for the position  
24 as a senior clerk. I think it was at the 17-0  
25 office.

1           Q.     You said this is the senior clerk at 17-2  
2     or 17-0?

3           A.     You know, I can't recall exactly because I  
4     applied like 11 times and you're asking me things  
5     that--

6           Q.     If you don't know that's fine, you can just  
7     tell me right out.

8           A.     I don't recall.

9           Q.     Do you remember who the person is who got  
10    the job?

11          A.     I don't recall, no.

12          Q.     Do you know what nationality they were?  
13    What race, color, creed?

14          A.     I think it was an African-American.

15          Q.     And the person who this African-American  
16    person was working for, do you know what color they  
17    were? What creed, what religion, what race, whatever  
18    discrimination you believe you're suffering?

19                 MR. BEINHAKER: Objection to the form.

20          A.     I don't remember.

21          Q.     Do you know if this person was more or less  
22    qualified?

23          A.     I don't remember if she was more or less  
24    qualified or not.

25          Q.     Do you remember the person's name?

1           A.     I can't recall the name, no.

2           Q.     Who do you believe is the specific person  
3     who discriminated against you, if there was one, in  
4     regards to this position?

5           A.     I think, specifically--see, I can't  
6     remember the names of the supervisors that were there  
7     at that time. I can't remember.

8           Q.     What's the next position, the fourth  
9     position you applied for?

10          A.     Basically it was around--it's the same--  
11     every time they would deny me a position I would apply  
12     again and again and again and again. So it could have  
13     been three positions of secretary or four positions of  
14     senior clerk or--

15          Q.     Do you know what the official title of the  
16     fourth position you applied for and you were denied  
17     based on your claim of discrimination was?

18          A.     I think it was another senior clerk  
19     position.

20          Q.     Do you know how long after you applied for  
21     the previous senior clerk position you applied for  
22     this one?

23          A.     Maybe six months.

24          Q.     Do you know the qualifications of the  
25     person who got the job?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Do you know what nationality they were?

3 A. I don't recall.

4 Q. Did you believe you were discriminated  
5 against based on the fact you were Puerto Rican in  
6 being denied this fourth job?

7 A. Well, I know that every, almost every  
8 position that I applied for, either an Anglo or an  
9 African-American would get it. But not a Spanish  
10 person. So to answer your question, did I feel I was  
11 discriminated, yes, I was.

12 Q. Do you have any proof of that? For this  
13 fourth position--

14 A. No, I don't.

15 Q. --aside from your opinion?

16 A. No, I don't.

17 Q. Do you know who the supervisor was that  
18 denied you this position?

19 A. I think that was--I can see the girl's face  
20 but I can't remember the name.

21 Q. If you don't know that's fine.

22 A. Yeah, I can visualize them, but I just  
23 don't remember the names.

24 Q. Do you remember what the next--

25 A. I have records and their names at home, all



1     these positions I applied for. So I can supply you  
2     with those, that information at a later date.

3           Q.     Do you know what the next position you  
4     applied for was, the fifth one?

5           A.     I think I applied for personal aide, and  
6     that I remember.

7           Q.     How long after the previous application as  
8     the second time for senior clerk was the personal aide  
9     position applied for?

10          A.     Something like six months, something like  
11     that.

12          Q.     Do you know the qualifications of the  
13     person who got the job?

14          A.     No, I don't remember.

15          Q.     Do you know the nationality of the person  
16     who got the job?

17          A.     She was, I think, she was Anglo.

18          Q.     Do you know what nationality her immediate  
19     supervisor was?

20          A.     He was Anglo.

21                 I think it was Mr. Stilson. Mr. Stilson.

22          Q.     Do you know whose decision it was to deny  
23     you this promotion?

24          A.     Mr. Stilson, I suppose.

25          Q.     So you believe he discriminated against you

1 based on your nationality? Is that your claim as we  
2 sit here today?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you make any complaint about this  
5 discrimination as of this time? Either oral or  
6 written?

7 A. I did, I think to Teresa Baker, a lady  
8 there at the regional office, her name was Teresa  
9 Baker.

10 Q. Was it written or oral?

11 A. Oral. Oral complaint.

12 Q. What was this complaint?

13 A. I made it known to her that I felt I  
14 qualified and I didn't understand why I was denied the  
15 position. I had already been there a year, I think,  
16 or something like that when I applied for that  
17 personal aide position, they had transferred me to the  
18 regional office.

19 And I played it--I kept, even while I was  
20 at the regional office, I kept applying for other  
21 positions. And that was one of the positions that I  
22 applied for. And I just made it known to her that I  
23 felt--how I felt.

24 Q. Did you tell her to take any actions on  
25 your behalf or do anything formally on your behalf?

1 A. I don't recall.

2 Q. What was the next position?

3 A. I think it was secretary position for 17-0.

4 And they gave that to a girl, I can't remember her  
5 name, but I know she had only been there a year or  
6 something like that. And she was African-American,  
7 that I remember. I can't remember her name.

8 Q. Do you know whose decision it was to give  
9 her this position?

10 A. Barry Groves.

11 Q. Do you believe Mr. Groves discriminated  
12 against you based on your being Puerto Rican?

13 A. Yes, I do.

14 Q. Do you know what this person's qualifica-  
15 tions were who got the job?

16 A. I think she was just a high school  
17 graduate.

18 Q. Did you make any complaints about not  
19 receiving this position to anyone? This specific  
20 position.

21 A. That specific position. I don't recall. I  
22 really don't recall.

23 Q. Did you know at this time if you would be  
24 entitled to make a formal complaint, either oral or  
25 written, regarding the denial of this promotion to you

1 because you thought it was based on your being Puerto  
2 Rican?

3 A. I knew, I guess by this time after applying  
4 so much--this calls for yes or no answer, did I know?

5 Q. Did you know?

6 A. Did I know. I kind of like don't know--  
7 well, I knew, I knew. I had filed grievances already  
8 so, yes, at that point I had already filed, yes, I  
9 knew that I could. And I did. I'm pretty sure I did.  
10 But I'll have to see if I have proof of that.

11 Because--

12 Q. By this time how many grievances had you  
13 filed?

14 A. Verbal, probably about seven. Written,  
15 about four.

16 Q. What was the next position?

17 A. Cashier's clerk or something like that at  
18 the regional office.

19 Q. Do you know what race or nationality the  
20 person who got this job was?

21 A. I think--she was African-American.

22 Q. Do you know what this person's qualifica-  
23 tions were?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Do you know if you were more qualified?

1 A. Yes, I was.

2 Q. If you don't know what her qualifications  
3 were how do you know you were more qualified than her?

4 A. Because of my educational background.

5 Q. But again, if you didn't know what her  
6 qualifications were how did you know you were more  
7 qualified?

8 A. Because I had been with the department  
9 longer than her. I don't think somebody that comes in  
10 new is going to know more than somebody who's been  
11 there.

12 Q. Do you know how long she had been with the  
13 department?

14 A. Well, she was about eight months.

15 Q. Do you know who this person was?

16 A. I don't recall her name.

17 Q. Did you know any of her qualifications  
18 based on her background prior to beginning these eight  
19 months with the Department of Corrections, whether she  
20 had gone to college or any college classes, whether  
21 she had worked in any other jobs, her experience,  
22 anything?

23 A. Well, I know that--that she was being  
24 trained for that position. And she came after me so I  
25 didn't understand why she was being trained for a

1 better position than me when I was there longer. So--

2 Q. My question to you is, did you know any-  
3 thing about her background prior to the Department of  
4 Corrections, any of her qualifications prior to the  
5 Department of Corrections?

6 A. No, no.

7 Q. Did you make any complaints regarding this  
8 denial of the promotion?

9 A. I don't recall if I did or not.

10 Q. Whose decision was it for you not to get  
11 this position, if you know, that discriminated against  
12 you in your claims?

13 A. I think that was Miss McDonald, was it?  
14 Miss McDonald.

15 Q. What was the next position, if you know?

16 A. I can't recall right now at this point. I  
17 can't recall.

18 Q. Do you remember any of the other positions?

19 A. There were all--I remember applying for  
20 mainly secretarial positions, senior clerk positions,  
21 in the area of accounting. I believe I applied one  
22 time as an accounting clerk or something like that  
23 within the department.

24 Q. Any other positions that you can remember?

25 A. That's it I can recall.

1           Q.     I'll ask you just general questions in  
2     regard to these other positions. Can you identify who  
3     specifically denied your promotions? Any of these.

4           A.     Miss McDonald, Karen McDonald. Barry  
5     Groves, Mr. Ruegetz, Teresa Baker, the personnel  
6     office. Mr. Stilson. That's who I can remember right  
7     now.

8           Q.     Did all of these positions go to African-  
9     Americans, Anglos, other--

10          A.     Mostly African-Americans.

11                 Both. Both.

12          Q.     Any of the positions to Hispanics?

13          A.     No.

14          Q.     Do you know the qualifications of any of  
15     the persons who were hired for the jobs that you  
16     applied for?

17          A.     No.

18          Q.     Did you make any formal complaints regard-  
19     ing these other positions?

20          A.     Yes, I did. Verbally.

21          Q.     How many verbal complaints?

22          A.     I'd say about four. About four.

23          Q.     Who did you make those four verbal  
24     complaints to?

25          A.     To Mr. Ruegetz, Barry Groves, Miss

1 McDonald.

2 Q. Anyone else?

3 A. There were other people, I just can't  
4 recall their names right now.

5 Q. How about any written complaints?

6 A. About six times or something like that. I  
7 don't recall the exact amount but they have like six  
8 written complaints or more. Maybe more than that, I  
9 don't know.

10 Q. Who did these written complaints go to?

11 A. They were addressed to the regional office:  
12 Mr. Ruegetz, Barry Groves, Mr. Stilson.

13 Q. Did you ever go higher than the regional  
14 office?

15 A. Yes. Tallahassee. I called Tallahassee  
16 and I told them how I was being treated and they were  
17 going to send somebody down to investigate. They did,  
18 an Inspector Spear was supposed to have come down.

19 Q. So you made a single phone call to  
20 Tallahassee or more than one?

21 A. More than one.

22 Q. How many?

23 A. Oh, I don't recall. Many.

24 Q. Do you know who you spoke to at any time?

25 A. I can't recall.



1 Q. Did you save any records of that?

2 A. Yes, I do have that.

3 Q. You have records of who you spoke with?

4 A. Matter of fact, now that you--I'm sorry?

5 Q. Do you have a record of who you spoke with?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 There are, now that I recall, there's a lot  
8 of records and meetings that occurred because one time  
9 I brought a court reporter like her (indicating) in  
10 one of those meetings.

11 Q. Do you remember who you met with?

12 A. Mr. Ruegetz and Barry Groves. And they  
13 cancelled the meeting and the lady had to go back  
14 home.

15 Q. You arranged for a court reporter?

16 A. I arranged for a court reporter.

17 Q. And that meeting, did it ever take place?

18 A. Never took place.

19 Q. Did you try and reschedule it?

20 A. They rescheduled it for another, later date  
21 and--that's it. They rescheduled.

22 Q. How come you didn't go when they  
23 rescheduled it?

24 A. No, I went. I went.

25 Q. You went without the court reporter?

1           A.     Without the court reporter, right, I went  
2     without the court reporter.

3           Q.     Did they tell you you couldn't bring a  
4     court reporter?

5           A.     Not really, no. They didn't say, You  
6     couldn't bring a court reporter.

7           Q.     You're saying it was a total of 11  
8     promotions you applied for, correct?

9           A.     Um-hmm.

10          Q.     Yes?

11          A.     Yes.

12          Q.     Were you qualified for all of these that  
13     you applied for?

14          A.     Yes.

15          Q.     Do you believe you were better qualified  
16     than the person who received the position ultimately?

17          A.     Yes.

18          Q.     Is it your claim that you did not get any  
19     of these 11 positions only because you are Puerto  
20     Rican?

21          A.     Yes.

22          Q.     I guess it would be ten because you got at  
23     least one of them?

24          A.     Well, that was more a transfer than any-  
25     thing else, but you keep saying--it was presented as a

1 promotion but it was really a transfer. It will be--  
2 it would have to be--

3 Q. Is that one of the 11 that you're talking  
4 about?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Out of any of the other ten did you receive  
7 the promotion, whether it be a transfer laterally or a  
8 promotion upwards?

9 A. No.

10 Q. What proof do you have that you were better  
11 qualified than the persons who received these other  
12 ten positions?

13 MR. BEINHAKER: Objection, asked and  
14 answered.

15 Q. Do you have any written documents or is it  
16 just your opinion?

17 A. There are written documents that I know I  
18 was more qualified, yes.

19 Q. Do you have yourself copies of written  
20 documentation that would show that you were more  
21 qualified than the person who received the position  
22 and that the only reason you didn't get it was because  
23 you were Puerto Rican?

24 A. No.

25 Q. So this is your own interpretation of what

1       happened and who got the job, correct?

2           A.     No.

3           Q.     What is it based on if you have no proof?

4           A.     It's based on the fact that I was there  
5       longer than them and they were trained for better  
6       positions than I when I should have been trained for a  
7       better position and not just been somebody else that  
8       comes new. That's what it's based on. And that the  
9       reason they didn't train me for a better position was  
10      because I'm Puerto Rican.

11          Q.     You have no physical proof of that--

12          A.     Of course not.

13          Q.     --like you said a moment ago?

14          A.     Of course not.

15          Q.     That's your opinion, that these people were  
16      better trained and because you're Puerto Rican they  
17      discriminated against you, is that what you're saying?

18          A.     No. What I'm saying is the fact that I was  
19      there, I had seniority, and within the department when  
20      you have seniority you're supposed to be trained for a  
21      better position, not just someone else be trained for  
22      a better position.

23          Q.     Is this a written rule of the Department of  
24      Corrections, that people who are more senior are auto-  
25      matically trained for better positions?

1           A.     That's what my understanding was. Whether  
2     there's a rule, I don't know if there is a rule there  
3     or not.

4           Q.     So back to my initial question, you have no  
5     physical proof of this discrimination, correct? No  
6     paperwork?

7           A.     No, no paperwork.

8           Q.     Have you ever had anyone give you an  
9     affidavit or testify that this occurred?

10          A.     No.

11          Q.     And you don't know if it's a practice or a  
12     procedure of the Department of Corrections to automat-  
13     ically give the person who is more senior, the person  
14     with seniority, the opportunity to train for a better  
15     job?

16          A.     Well, I've seen that they've done that. My  
17     observation while I was working at the department was  
18     that I saw that happen.

19          Q.     But you don't know if that's a rule, a  
20     specific rule?

21          A.     No, I don't know.

22          Q.     So if you have no written documents, you  
23     have no affidavits or other proof, you don't know of  
24     any rule or practice that you can identify for the  
25     Department of Corrections, you're basically basing

1 your claim of discrimination on your interpretation of  
2 what happened, is that correct?

3 A. No, that is not correct.

4 Q. What do you have that you are basing your  
5 interpretation of discrimination on if you don't have  
6 any of those items?

7 A. Well, on the way I was treated negatively  
8 within the department. That's my proof.

9 Q. It's your interpretation of how you were  
10 treated, correct?

11 A. It's how I was treated. It's not an  
12 interpretation as you say. You're saying that it's an  
13 interpretation.

14 Q. Whose opinion is it that you were treated--

15 A. It's not an opinion, it's a fact.

16 Q. What proof do you have?

17 A. I have proof.

18 Q. What proof do you have?

19 A. I can subpoena people that saw how I was  
20 treated there, that's the proof I have. And that are  
21 willing to testify if I need to call them. That they  
22 observed exactly how I was being treated.

23 Q. Who are these people?

24 A. Mr. Jose Torres that was there, Jane Perez  
25 that was there, many--

1 Q. Anyone else?

2 A. Jorge Gonzalez, Maria Cortez, Peggy Sierra.

3 Q. I'm sorry, Maria Cortez?

4 A. Cortez, yes.

5 Q. And the name after that?

6 A. Peggy Sierra.

7 Q. Anyone else?

8 A. I have a list. I can't recall, but I have

9 a list of people that are still there that witnessed

10 what I went through. And how I was being treated.

11 Q. Where is this list?

12 A. Where is it?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. Where is the list?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. In my head.

17 Q. You haven't written it--

18 A. No. I'll never forget.

19 Q. Who else besides these people? You've  
20 named off five people, who else besides these five?

21 A. There was a supervisor by the name of Mr.  
22 Hill. Mr. Subramani.

23 Q. I'm sorry, can you spell the name?

24 A. Subramani, S-u-b-r-a-m-a-n-i, Subramani.

25 There were other supervisors there.

1 Q. Was Subramani a supervisor?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What other supervisors? What other people  
4 in general besides the seven people you've now named?

5 A. I have a list, I--

6 Q. You just told me you don't have a list, you  
7 have a list in your head and you'll never forget it.

8 Do you have a list--

9 A. I have a list, not a big list, but if I sit  
10 here and start recalling I can remember.

11 Q. That's what I'm asking you to do.

12 Who else?

13 A. At this point I can't recall anyone else.

14 Q. As we go through these if there's anyone  
15 else you can think of go ahead and tell me.

16 Start out with the first one, Jose Torres.

17 First of all, what nationality is he?

18 A. Puerto Rican.

19 Q. Has he been discriminated against?

20 A. I don't know that. He would be the one to  
21 know that.

22 Q. Has he ever told you he's been discriminat-  
23 ed against?

24 A. Yes, he did. He applied for positions that  
25 he didn't get.



1 Q. That was based on the fact that he's Puerto  
2 Rican?

3 A. I don't know. He would have to tell you  
4 that.

5 Q. Has he ever told you that he was discrimi-  
6 nated against because he's Puerto Rican?

7 A. He felt that way, yes, he told me how he  
8 felt.

9 Q. Has he told you he felt he was discriminat-  
10 ed against--

11 A. Right.

12 Q. --because he was Puerto Rican?

13 A. Because he applied for positions and he was  
14 Puerto Rican and they didn't give it to him.

15 Q. What did he see in relation to your claims  
16 of discrimination?

17 A. I don't know that.

18 Q. Have you ever spoken with him about it?

19 A. No, because he left. He retired early and  
20 he moved. But he made it clear to me that--he just  
21 let me know he felt he had been discriminated against.

22 Q. Have you spoken with him since he left the  
23 Department of Corrections?

24 A. No, I haven't.

25 Q. When was the last time you spoke with him?

1           A.     Well, since the last time I left the  
2     Department of Corrections. About a year before that.

3           Q.     Do you know in regards to his claims of  
4     discrimination what they are?

5           A.     I don't know. He would know that, not I.

6           Q.     Do you know if he's filed a lawsuit or made  
7     any claims?

8           A.     I have no idea.

9           MR. BEINHAKER: Counsel, not to interrupt  
10     you, but do you plan to take a lunch break? You  
11     want to just see--

12          MR. OPPENHEIMER: Whatever time you want to  
13     go. You want to take a break for a half hour, an  
14     hour, whatever you want.

15          MR. BEINHAKER: A short one, but if you  
16     want to finish up a line of questioning here I  
17     can wait another half hour or whatever you  
18     prefer.

19          MR. OPPENHEIMER: No, we'll just go on with  
20     the next person when we get back. Why don't we  
21     take a break for a half an hour.

22                 (Lunch recess.)

23          Q.     We were talking about people that you said  
24     you can subpoena that will support your position and  
25     we discussed one person, Jose Torres. The next person

1       you mentioned was someone by the name of Jane Perez?

2           A.     Yes.

3           Q.     Before we go there, have you thought of  
4       anybody else besides the names you gave me before?  
5       And there were, looks like seven of them?

6           A.     Not yet, no.

7           Q.     And what nationality is Jane Perez?

8           A.     She's Puerto Rican.

9           Q.     How do you know she's discriminated  
10       against?

11          A.     Because she applied for a position and they  
12       didn't give it to her.

13          Q.     Just one position?

14          A.     Only one that I know of.

15          Q.     Do you know if she's ever gotten a promo-  
16       tion?

17          A.     No, I don't.

18          Q.     Let me go back to Mr. Torres. Do you know  
19       if he's ever gotten any promotions?

20          A.     No.

21          Q.     No, he hasn't, or you don't know?

22          A.     No, I don't know.

23          Q.     What will he be able to say in support of  
24       your claims, if you know?

25          A.     Well, he applied for a position and they

1 didn't give it to him. It was a supervisor position,  
2 he was with the department 12 years or something like  
3 that.

4 Q. And you believe that supports your position  
5 that you were discriminated against, the fact that he  
6 didn't get a supervisor position that he applied for?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And do you know the qualifications of the  
9 person who did get that supervisor position?

10 A. No, I don't.

11 Q. Do you know who got the position specifi-  
12 cally?

13 A. An African-American.

14 Q. Do you know who that person was?

15 A. I don't recall the name.

16 Q. Was that while you were working for the  
17 Department of Corrections?

18 A. Yes. That was in 1998. 1998 at the 17-0  
19 office.

20 Q. When was the last time you spoke with Jane  
21 Perez?

22 A. About a year ago.

23 Q. And does she know any of the details of  
24 your claims?

25 A. I don't know.

1 Q. Have you ever discussed it with her?

2 A. I don't recall. I really don't.

3 Q. Aside from the fact that she didn't get a  
4 promotion, is there anything else that you believe in  
5 relation to her supports your claims that you were  
6 discriminated against because of your nationality?

7 A. She witnessed it one time, I think, when  
8 they didn't want to--they were sort of being negative  
9 towards me.

10 Q. Who?

11 A. Jane Perez and--I think she filed a  
12 grievance, as a matter of fact. I can't recall the  
13 details but I think she filed a grievance against what  
14 she saw as an officer that she didn't like the way  
15 they were treating me. You'll have to pick that up  
16 with her, I don't recall exactly what she filed.

17 Q. Did she tell you she witnessed something?

18 A. No, she was there. She didn't tell me she  
19 was actually there, it was--

20 Q. Did she tell you afterwards she had  
21 witnessed whatever this was? Did she tell you about  
22 it, what she saw?

23 A. Yeah. She said she walked by, she saw what  
24 happened, she was going to write a report referring to  
25 it.

1 Q. What did she see? What did she tell you  
2 she saw?

3 A. She saw me in the front needing help and  
4 not getting help, and she felt that other people there  
5 got help when they were called and I didn't get the  
6 help that I needed.

7 Q. And she saw you not getting help and other  
8 people were, did she hear anybody talk about it, did  
9 she--

10 A. No, she just said, "I don't like what I  
11 saw, I'm going to file a report." And she did.

12 Q. Do you have a copy of this report?

13 A. The department has a copy of that. Because  
14 she filed a report, so that has to be within the  
15 department.

16 Q. Do you have a copy of this report?

17 A. No, I don't.

18 Q. Have you ever seen it?

19 A. Nuh-uh. No. I'm sorry. I'm not supposed  
20 to say nuh-uh.

21 Q. Do you know if she's filed any lawsuits or  
22 has any claims against DOC for herself?

23 A. She told me she was but I don't know. I  
24 don't know.

25 Q. She said she was going to make a claim?

1 A. I don't know. I know she told me she was  
2 going to file; whether she did, I don't know.

3 Q. Did she ask for your support in her claim?

4 A. No, no.

5 Q. Do you know what her claim was in regards  
6 to?

7 A. She applied for a position and they didn't  
8 give it to her.

9 Q. Do you know the qualifications of any  
10 persons who got any positions she wanted?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you know what promotions if any she  
13 received?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you know if she got any promotions  
16 without identifying what they were?

17 A. No.

18 Q. The next person is Jorge Gonzalez. Is he  
19 Puerto Rican also?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And has he been discriminated against?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What did that discrimination consist of?

24 A. Well, he got demoted when he got sick. He  
25 felt he was discriminated against because, according

1 to what he told me, other people had been sick and  
2 they don't get demoted and he got demoted from his  
3 position.

4 Q. Do you know any of the details of that  
5 demotion?

6 A. No. That's all I know. That's what I can  
7 remember. I can't remember nothing else regarding  
8 that particular incident with him.

9 Q. Besides the demotion, did he ever tell you  
10 he was discriminated against in regards to a promotion  
11 he applied for, a position, any other type of  
12 discrimination?

13 A. No. No.

14 Q. When was the last time you spoke with Mr.  
15 Gonzalez?

16 A. Oh, about two years ago.

17 Q. Is he still at DOC?

18 A. Yes. And probably after that, because we  
19 would still go to lunch once in a while and just meet  
20 for lunch and stuff like that. That was about a year  
21 and a half ago, something like that. I can't be very  
22 specific with the exact date.

23 Q. Did you have any other type of social  
24 relationship with him outside work after you left  
25 DOC--



1 A. No.

2 Q. --besides going to lunch?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you see Miss Perez since you left the  
5 Department of Corrections?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Mr. Torres, did you ever see him socially  
8 outside of work?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Mr. Gonzalez, have you ever seen him  
11 socially outside of work--

12 A. No.

13 Q. Have you seen him since you left the  
14 Department of Corrections?

15 A. No, he moved.

16 Q. The next person is Maria Cortez. Is she  
17 Puerto Rican?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And was she discriminated against?

20 A. I wouldn't know if she was or not.

21 Q. What discrimination in regards to your  
22 claims is she a witness to or will she testify to in  
23 your behalf?

24 A. When I was at the regional office she saw  
25 how Mr. Bill Crosby would treat me and she didn't--she

1     made a comment towards the fact that she didn't feel  
2     right about it. That's all.

3           Q.     Besides this one occasion where she made  
4     this comment, do you know of any other knowledge she  
5     has regarding your claims of discrimination?

6           A.     No.

7           Q.     Have you discussed this with her, your  
8     claims?

9           A.     While I was at the regional office I think  
10    I mentioned it to her, that I didn't appreciate how I  
11    was being treated. But that's about it.

12          Q.     When was the last time you spoke with her?

13          A.     A couple of months ago.

14          Q.     Where was that?

15          A.     That was just over the phone. I just touch  
16    base with her every once in a while.

17          Q.     Did you call her?

18          A.     I call her every once in a while.

19          Q.     Do you consider her a friend of yours  
20    socially outside of the work arena?

21          A.     No. No.

22          Q.     Why have you continued to speak with her  
23    outside of work?

24          A.     I made a lot of friends at the department  
25    that I still touch base with. You just make friends.

1           Q.     You don't consider her a social friend  
2 outside of the work arena, even though you continue to  
3 call her?

4           A.     These are people you meet, you like; you  
5 just touch base, that's all.

6           Q.     Do you know if she's filed any grievances?

7           A.     I have no idea, no.

8           Q.     Next person is going to be Peggy Sierra.  
9 Is she Puerto Rican?

10          A.     Yes.

11          Q.     Has she been discriminated against--

12          A.     Yes.

13          Q.     --that you know of?

14                 What is that discrimination, as far as your  
15 understanding?

16          A.     Well, she just told me she had been there  
17 16 years--16 or 12 years, I can't recall the exact  
18 years, and that they promoted someone, that she had  
19 applied for the position of a supervisor and they  
20 didn't give her the position, they gave it to somebody  
21 from the street. And she was going to file but then  
22 she said she didn't--she was afraid to lose her job so  
23 she didn't file.

24          Q.     Do you know any of the qualifications of  
25 the person who got this supervisor position?

1           A.     Nuh-uh.  No.

2                     I keep saying nuh-uh, I'm sorry.  I have to  
3 keep saying no or yes, I can remember that.

4           Q.     You don't know any of the qualifications of  
5 the person who got the position instead of Miss  
6 Sierra?

7           A.     Brenda--her name was Brenda, I can't  
8 remember her last name.

9           Q.     But do you know any of her qualifications?

10          A.     No, I don't.

11          Q.     Do you know what knowledge she has regard-  
12 ing the claims you are making in your discrimination--

13          A.     No, I don't know what knowledge she has,  
14 no.

15          Q.     Has she witnessed any discrimination  
16 against you?

17          A.     Yes.

18          Q.     What discrimination has she witnessed?

19          A.     It had something to do with the insurance.  
20 I can't recall exactly the incident, but had something  
21 to do with changing the insurance and them allowing  
22 someone else to change and me not change some bene-  
23 fits.  I can't recall the exact situation, but she was  
24 at that time handling the insurance forms, and when  
25 she complained then they allowed me to go ahead and

1 make the proper changes that I had to to adjust my  
2 insurance. But I think she filed a complaint.

3 This is stuff the department has. All  
4 those complaints, the department has copies of that.

5 Q. When was the last time you spoke with her?

6 A. I think in November. Before the holidays  
7 this year.

8 Q. The year 2000?

9 A. Yes. Year 2000.

10 Q. Have you ever done anything with her  
11 socially outside of the work arena?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Do you know if she's filed any grievances?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you know if she's made any specific  
16 claims or filed any lawsuits?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Have you discussed any of your claims with  
19 her since leaving the Department of Corrections?

20 A. No, not really, no. She knows because she  
21 works in the department, she gets the personnel file.  
22 Even though she doesn't tell me nothing she's well  
23 aware of what's going on.

24 Q. Have you specifically--

25 A. No.

1 Q. --discussed with her your claims against  
2 leaving the Department of Corrections?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Do you know if she's ever been denied any  
5 promotions?

6 A. The supervisor promotion. She applied for  
7 supervisor position and was denied.

8 Q. Aside from that one?

9 A. That's the only one I know of.

10 Q. And this person, Brenda, who got the  
11 position, what is her nationality if you know?

12 A. She's Anglo.

13 Q. The next person is a Supervisor Hill. Has  
14 he ever been discriminated against?

15 A. I believe he felt that he was, but--I know  
16 he filed, but I don't know exactly what he filed.

17 Q. What nationality is he?

18 A. He's African.

19 Q. Do you know any of the details of his  
20 discrimination claim?

21 A. No, I don't.

22 Q. Do you know what details he knows in  
23 regards to your discrimination claims?

24 A. Well, he was supervisor during the time  
25 that I was at 17-1 and he witnessed some things that

1 he did not agree to, how they were treating me.

2 Q. What did he specifically witness?

3 A. Well, I think he witnessed their negative  
4 behavior toward me.

5 Q. Whose negative behavior?

6 A. Miss Linda Scarlett and another supervisor  
7 there by the name of Weiss. I can't recall her first  
8 name.

9 Q. What specifically, what was the negative  
10 behavior that he witnessed?

11 A. Well, they had me like clean the tables in  
12 the--they had a party and then I had to clean the  
13 tables. He didn't think that was correct.

14 Q. They told you you had to clean the tables?

15 A. Um-hmm.

16 Q. Yes?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And who was that? Was that--

19 A. That was, I think, Supervisor Weiss. There  
20 was another supervisor, I couldn't remember who she  
21 was. And that's it.

22 Q. When was the last time you spoke with him?

23 A. Wow. Since I left the department two years  
24 ago, something like that.

25 Q. Have you spoken with him since leaving?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Besides witnessing you having to clean the  
3 tables as you explained a moment ago, do you know if  
4 he witnessed any other forms of discrimination against  
5 you you're claiming in this lawsuit?

6 A. No.

7 Q. I think you stated a moment ago you don't  
8 know what the specific discrimination he's claiming or  
9 he has claimed?

10 A. I don't know, but I know that he did file.  
11 But I don't know specifically what happened.

12 Q. Do you know if that's race based? Based on  
13 him being an African-American?

14 A. I don't know.

15 Q. And you believe he'll support your position  
16 that you were discriminated against based on being a  
17 Puerto Rican?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And the last one is Supervisor Subramani,  
20 Subramani?

21 A. Subramani. Subramani.

22 Q. What race or nationality is he?

23 A. He's a Hindu.

24 Q. Has he been discriminated against?

25 A. I don't know.



1 Q. Has he witnessed any discrimination against  
2 you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What discrimination?

5 A. There was a lady there by the name of  
6 Trensgrise (phonetic) or something like that. And I  
7 trained her for her position, and then she was trying  
8 to correct my work and we got into a discussion and he  
9 saw the whole thing, I think. So he approved, kind of  
10 approved for me to leave that day because I was, I  
11 think, pretty upset that day, and he signed my form so  
12 that I could go home or something like that. The  
13 department has record, a record of that.

14 Q. Do you have a copy of that record?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Have you ever seen that record?

17 A. No.

18 Q. This person, Trensgrise, do you know how to  
19 spell that?

20 A. I don't know. Trensgrise, something like  
21 what.

22 Q. This person you trained and then she  
23 corrected what of yours?

24 A. They trained her kind of like for when the  
25 supervisor wasn't there, for her to sit in for the

1 supervisor.

2 Q. And what did she correct?

3 A. She didn't--she just put like notes for me  
4 to redo--

5 Q. Was she the acting supervisor at this time?

6 A. She was not the acting supervisor. She had  
7 just gotten into the department, she had been there  
8 like six months, and then one day the supervisor was  
9 out and she was sitting in, I guess, yeah.

10 Q. Was she told to assume that position when  
11 the supervisor left?

12 A. I don't know if she did or not.

13 Q. Do you know if she was not told? Do you  
14 know anything--

15 A. She said that the supervisor told her to  
16 give that to me and to make the corrections.

17 Q. Do you know that to be true or not be true?

18 A. Well, when she did it was because somebody  
19 told her to do it.

20 Q. And you thought that was discrimination,  
21 because she told you to make corrections on something?

22 A. No, not because of that. I felt it was  
23 discrimination for her to be trained for a better  
24 position than me. Because I trained her--

25 Q. Do you know what her qualifications were?

1           A.     I trained her for the position that she had  
2     as a word processor. So she was being trained for the  
3     supervisory position. So, of course, I felt very bad  
4     that she'd come and correct my work when I was the one  
5     who trained her.

6           Q.     Do you know what nationality--

7           A.     She's Anglo.

8           Q.     Do you know any of her qualifications?

9           A.     No. I don't.

10                  But she was there as a word processor.

11           Q.     But you don't know any of her qualifica-  
12     tions?

13           A.     No.

14           Q.     What did she ask you to correct?

15           A.     She just was--in other words, trying to be  
16     my supervisor. This is what I picked up.

17           Q.     What did she ask you to do?

18           A.     To go ahead and--she corrected my work.

19           Q.     What did she correct?

20           A.     I don't know. She put some notes on there  
21     about--something about one of the post-sentence  
22     investigations, I can't recall.

23           Q.     Were you writing this yourself or were you  
24     just typing it out? Was she making grammatical  
25     corrections or was she--

1 A. No, I just saw her note--as I recall, this  
2 was such a long time ago--just a note on Redo or  
3 something like that.

4 Q. Is this something you were doing yourself  
5 or were you typing up for someone else?

6 A. No, this is stuff, daily work that I did  
7 every day and it would go to the supervisor. But  
8 since she wasn't there that day for her to review then  
9 Miss Trensgrise sat in that position to review all the  
10 work for that day.

11 Q. What kind of work was this? I'm not  
12 familiar with what you did.

13 A. Like a post-sentence investigation or  
14 something like that.

15 Q. Where did you get the information from that  
16 you inputted?

17 A. From the record. From the clients, the--

18 Q. So you just took information off the record  
19 and typed it into something else, is that what you're  
20 saying?

21 A. You take the information that they give  
22 you, that the officer gives you, and then you type it  
23 into a form that's called post-sentence investiga-  
24 tions.

25 Q. She asked you to correct whatever you had

1 typed in initially?

2 A. Right. All right. But it was like--it's  
3 like you do a day's work and somebody comes in and  
4 corrects it.

5 Q. Does the supervisor normally do that of  
6 you?

7 A. No. Never. I used to correct my own work.

8 Q. And whatever she told you to correct, did  
9 it need to be corrected?

10 A. Not really, because I could have done that  
11 myself.

12 Q. Not really, yes or no? I mean, did it need  
13 to be corrected whether you were going to do it your-  
14 self or not?

15 A. No. It did not need to be corrected, no.

16 Q. Did you make any corrections to it?

17 A. I don't recall if I did or not.

18 Q. Did she look at it again?

19 A. I left. I left. I got, you know, I just  
20 left. I was very upset over the whole incident. And  
21 I talked to Mr. Subramani that I wanted, you know, to  
22 go, and he approved my leave and so I left. Because I  
23 felt I was being harassed at that point with my work.

24 Q. Did you make any complaints about it  
25 besides--

- 1 A. Yes, I did.
- 2 Q. --asking Mr. Subramani to leave?
- 3 A. Yes, I did.
- 4 Q. What complaint did you make?
- 5 A. I felt it was inappropriate that she did
- 6 that.
- 7 Q. Who did you make the complaint to?
- 8 A. Did it to Miss McDonald and to Mr. Barry
- 9 Groves.
- 10 Q. What was the outcome of those complaints?
- 11 A. The outcome, I got written up.
- 12 Q. You got written up?
- 13 A. I got written up.
- 14 Q. What did you get written up for?
- 15 A. They said that I--they called it, I don't
- 16 know what they said, I verbally--verbal altercation or
- 17 something like that.
- 18 Q. Verbal altercation?
- 19 A. Yeah, that's what they said. I don't know
- 20 what they called it.
- 21 Q. For arguing with Trensgrise?
- 22 A. Right, for arguing with her or something
- 23 like that. For voicing my opinion, let me put it that
- 24 way.
- 25 Q. Did you voice your opinion to Miss

1 Trensgrise?

2 A. Yes, I did. I told her exactly how I felt.  
3 And she smirked. And then I just--I felt I was being  
4 harassed and I just said, "I don't think I should  
5 tolerate this." And I talked to the supervisor about  
6 it and--

7 Q. Do you know if she complained about it?

8 A. I don't know if she did or not.

9 Q. Any other incidents that Supervisor  
10 Subramani knew of?

11 A. Well, no. That's it.

12 Q. When was the last time you spoke with him?  
13 Still at DOC or since?

14 A. While I was at DOC.

15 Q. Do you know if he's filed any claims  
16 against DOC?

17 A. No, I don't know if he has.

18 Q. Do you know if he still works for DOC?

19 A. I think he still works for DOC.

20 Q. Do you know if he's ever been denied any  
21 promotions?

22 A. No, I don't.

23 Q. Did you ever discuss with him the fact that  
24 you were written up for this verbal altercation with  
25 Miss Trensgrise?

1 A. No. No.

2 Q. Do you believe all the discrimination you  
3 received was based on being Puerto Rican?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you believe it was any other reason for  
6 your claims of discrimination? Your gender, your age,  
7 anything else?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Have you ever made any claims about dis-  
10 crimination based on any other reason besides being  
11 Puerto Rican?

12 MR. BEINHAKER: Objection to the form of  
13 the question.

14 You can answer it if you can.

15 A. I don't recall whether or not.

16 Q. You don't recall if you've made any other  
17 claim of discrimination for any other reason besides  
18 the one in this, being Puerto Rican?

19 A. I don't recall. I don't recall.

20 Q. Have you ever sought the specific reasons  
21 that other people were promoted to positions which you  
22 believed you were discriminated against and denied?

23 A. Yes, I did.

24 Q. What did you do on that matter? What  
25 exactly did you undertake to find this out?



1           A.     One of the girls I talked to.

2           Q.     Who was that?

3           A.     That was at the--she was at the 17-4  
4     office, I can't remember her full name. But she was  
5     one of the girls that got promoted to the secretary  
6     position. She was an African-American and I just  
7     wanted to know her background, and I asked her and she  
8     said she only had like a high school diploma or some-  
9     thing like that. So right there and then I knew that  
10    I was--I had more education than her, anyway.

11          Q.     Did you have more experience?

12          A.     No. She was hired there as a word  
13    processor.

14          Q.     Did you ever find out any other reasons,  
15    did you identify any other reasons that you believe  
16    that other people were promoted ahead of you? Aside  
17    from this one you've mentioned.

18          A.     I can't remember right now. I can't recall  
19    right now.

20          Q.     Of the ten positions that you applied for  
21    and didn't get and that you believe you were  
22    discriminated against because you are Puerto Rican and  
23    that's why you didn't get them, can you identify a  
24    specific reason why you didn't get the positions that  
25    you can quantify? That you had better education, that

1 you had better qualifications, that you're better  
2 experienced than the person getting the job aside from  
3 your claim that you were just discriminated against?

4 MR. BEINHAKER: Objection to the form.

5 Q. Is there anything that you know of that you  
6 can identify in relation to these positions?

7 A. Well, yes.

8 Q. What can you specifically identify as to  
9 which position, aside from being Puerto Rican and the  
10 person who got the position not being Puerto Rican, is  
11 there any other reason? Is that the only reason you  
12 didn't get any of these positions, these ten?

13 A. Well, no, that's the only reason I can  
14 think of. The only reason. And I guess maybe my age,  
15 but I was what, 40-something then, I don't know.  
16 Maybe my age, I don't know. But it would have to be  
17 Puerto Rican or my age, there's nothing else.

18 Q. Are you making any claim of age discrimi-  
19 nation?

20 A. No, I don't think I did. I don't recall,  
21 let's put it that way, I don't recall because I could  
22 have mentioned it at the EEOC. They have records of  
23 this, you know, all these questions you're asking me,  
24 the EEOC has all those records. Because everything  
25 you're asking me, I gave it to the EEOC. And they

1 have that. They have that.

2 Q. EEOC did an investigation, correct?

3 A. According to my understanding they did,  
4 yes.

5 Q. And they concluded there was no finding of  
6 discrimination, is that correct?

7 A. No, that is not correct.

8 Q. They found discrimination?

9 A. They felt--they felt that, yes, that they  
10 had discriminated against me and needed to go further,  
11 but at one point it just stood still. And I didn't  
12 hear from them anymore after a while.

13 Q. Did they conclude from their investigation  
14 that you had been discriminated against?

15 A. I don't know. You're asking me something  
16 that I don't know.

17 Q. Did they conclude from their investigation  
18 that you weren't discriminated against?

19 A. That I wasn't? I don't recall, to be very  
20 honest with you.

21 Q. Do you know what their conclusions are at  
22 all?

23 A. No, I don't.

24 Q. Did you quit or were you terminated?

25 A. I--I left and I sent them a letter resign-

1 ing until the problem got solved. And they have a  
2 record of that.

3 Q. You gave them an ultimatum, you would not  
4 work until the problem was resolved?

5 A. Exactly.

6 Q. Do you know if this was allowed within the  
7 rules of the State of Florida Department of Correc-  
8 tions, if this was one of your avenues of redress?

9 A. Well, I don't know that.

10 Q. Do you know any ways you could have dealt  
11 with this problem within the rules of the DOC and the  
12 State of Florida?

13 A. Well, I think I filed enough grievances and  
14 I went to verbal meetings and I exhausted all, what I  
15 thought was all the avenues to solve the problem and  
16 it never got solved. So at that point was when I  
17 decided to make that letter and it got to the point  
18 where I didn't--it was affecting my health a little  
19 bit and I had to go to the doctor, so I decided it's  
20 better to leave than for it to affect me.

21 Q. Did you ever request a medical leave of  
22 absence?

23 A. I did at one time but it's not related to  
24 the discrimination. It had to do with my husband, he  
25 was sick.

1           Q.     So you never requested any medical leave  
2     for this discrimination, health problems you're  
3     claiming to have suffered, correct?

4           A.     No, that is not correct because--no. No.

5           Q.     You just stated a moment ago you requested  
6     medical leave one time and it was for your husband and  
7     his health problems?

8           A.     Right.

9           Q.     Did you ever request medical leave for any  
10    problems you were having with your health as a result  
11    of the discrimination you're claiming in this lawsuit?

12          A.     No, not really, no.

13          Q.     No, not really? It's a yes or no question.

14          A.     You see, when I went because of the  
15    emotional stress I was under it wasn't a medical  
16    leave--what do you mean by medical leave? Explain  
17    that--

18          Q.     Did you request any type of medical leave  
19    at any time--

20          A.     Yes, then I did, yes.

21          Q.     How many days did you request, or did you  
22    just take a day off?

23          A.     No, I would go, whenever I needed to, to go  
24    to the doctor to get medication.

25          Q.     Did you request any medical leave besides

1 days off to go to doctors?

2 A. No.

3 Q. What were the dates your husband was sick?

4 A. Oh, I can't--March of--I don't know.

5 I remember what, four, five years ago.

6 Q. Approximately what time?

7 A. March, month of March?

8 Q. What year?

9 A. Probably four years ago; that was what,

10 19--

11 Q. That would be 1997?

12 A. '97, something like that.

13 Q. What was his health problem?

14 A. He had colon cancer.

15 Q. Did you ever look into any other ways you  
16 could have dealt with this discrimination aside from  
17 writing this letter and resigning, giving this  
18 ultimatum of getting it corrected and you would not  
19 return until then?

20 A. Well, the EEOC was the only--the other.

21 Q. Was that while you were working or after?

22 A. While I was working.

23 Q. Had the EEOC finished their investigation  
24 by the time you resigned?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Were there any other avenues that you knew  
2 of that you could have undertaken within your rights  
3 as an employee of the State of Florida--

4 A. No.

5 Q. --or the DOC?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Didn't know of any others?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Do you know if the EEOC ever concluded  
10 there was any discrimination against you?

11 MR. BEINHAKER: Objection, asked and  
12 answered.

13 Q. You can answer.

14 A. I think I already did answer that before.

15 MR. BEINHAKER: Answer it again.

16 MR. OPPENHEIMER: You want to repeat the  
17 question for me please?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, repeat the question  
19 please.

20 (Thereupon, the pending question was read  
21 back by the court reporter as above-recorded.)

22 A. I think, yes, yes.

23 Q. Yes, they did?

24 A. Well, I'm not sure. I don't recall. I  
25 don't recall. I don't recall.

1 Q. Do you know if the Office of the Inspector  
2 General did an investigation?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You don't know if they did or no, they  
5 didn't?

6 A. I don't know if they did.

7 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Let me copy something  
8 real quick. I'll be back in one second.

9 (Defendants' Exhibit No. 1, a copy of memo  
10 dated 10/5/99, was marked for identification.)

11 Q. We have marked the Dismissal and Notice of  
12 Rights from the EEOC as Defendants' Exhibit 1. I've  
13 given a copy to your attorney. Have you ever seen  
14 this document before?

15 A. You know, I saw something like this, but it  
16 also stated that if I disagreed with it to go ahead  
17 and get an attorney, which I did. So I didn't  
18 consider this a conclusion. This says it is unable to  
19 conclude, where it says "X," and that's exactly how I  
20 took it, that they didn't reach a conclusion. Maybe I  
21 misread this, but that's what it looks like.

22 Q. Did you think they had any findings of  
23 discrimination against you through their investiga-  
24 tion?

25 A. I don't recall. I'm not going to say



1 specific answering that because I don't recall.

2 Q. Did you ever ask what their findings were  
3 of anything?

4 A. Well, I recall having gotten this letter  
5 and I went to an attorney after that. So--

6 Q. Have you ever requested any of the docu-  
7 ments from the EEOC--

8 A. No.

9 Q. --regarding their investigation?

10 A. No, I didn't.

11 Q. Have you ever seen any of the documenta-  
12 tion?

13 A. No. I saw something like this, I recall  
14 now having seen something like this (indicating).

15 Q. Do you know who they spoke to?

16 A. No. I went twice to the EEOC. They gave  
17 me--they had me look at some documents, I signed an  
18 affidavit, and that was about it.

19 Q. You don't know if they spoke with any of  
20 the people we've identified through this deposition?

21 A. No. Really I don't. I really don't  
22 recall.

23 Did I meet with them over there? No, I  
24 don't recall meeting them over there. I don't recall  
25 that.

1 Q. Do you have any reason to believe you have  
2 diabetes?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Do you have any reason to believe you've  
5 come in contact with the AIDS virus?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Are you a smoker?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Have you been involved in any accidents  
10 since this occurrence, any--

11 A. No.

12 Q. --car accidents, driver, passenger,  
13 pedestrian?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Have you ever been involved in any other  
16 accidents, slip and fall, trip, things like that?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Have you ever filed a workers' compensation  
19 claim?

20 A. I don't recall, no.

21 Q. Have you ever heard of the name Michelle,  
22 M-i-c-h-e-l-l-e, Gruss, G-r-u-s-s?

23 A. I don't recall.

24 Q. How about Aindata, A-i-n-d-a-t-a, Demoya,  
25 D-e-m-o-y-a?

1 A. No, I don't recall,

2 Q. Douglas Sweredoski, S-w-e-r-e-d-o-s-k-i?

3 A. You're saying if I just recall their names?

4 Q. If you recall their names.

5 A. Him, his name sounds familiar, but I think

6 it was from 17-1 office or something like that, I'm

7 not sure.

8 Q. Do you know why it sounds familiar?

9 A. No. I don't. Maybe it was a co-worker. I  
10 don't know.

11 Q. Jesse Nolan, N-o-l-a-n?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Linda DeFelice, D-e-F-e-l-i-c-e?

14 A. No

15 Q. Gonzalez Sorrell, S-o-r-r-e-l-l?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Carolyn Baker?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Of the six people I just mentioned, do you  
20 know any of the qualifications of those people?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Do you know if any of them received  
23 positions that you applied for?

24 A. No, I don't.

25 Q. Do you know what any of their races are,

1 national origins, backgrounds, anything, any of that?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Have you ever heard of something called a  
4 Career Service Class Specification?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you know it being abbreviated KSA?

7 A. No, I don't know what that is.

8 Q. You don't know those as being the same  
9 things--

10 A. No.

11 Q. --KSA and Career Service Class Specifica-  
12 tion?

13 A. I don't know.

14 Q. What is the Career Service Class  
15 Specification?

16 A. You're asking me to describe that to you?

17 Q. What is it?

18 A. I mean--that's, according to my understand-  
19 ing, a document that the Department of Corrections has  
20 that specifies the position you're applying for. In  
21 there it tells you the qualifications that you're  
22 supposed to meet for that particular position.

23 Q. Do you complete any portion of the Career  
24 Service Class Specification?

25 A. Did I complete?

1           Q.     Do you complete any portion of a Career  
2     Service Class Specification?

3           A.     I can recall the ones I applied for, yes, I  
4     did.

5           Q.     It's a specific form you complete?

6           A.     No, that's a form that every employee from  
7     the DOC completes when they're applying for a job.

8           Q.     Is that called the Career Service Class  
9     Specification or is that a form done in relation to  
10    that?

11          A.     No, it's not a form done in relation to  
12    that.

13          Q.     What does the employee complete?

14          A.     The employee just completes, I think it's a  
15    form that looks something like this (indicating) and  
16    it just has--tells you the job number and the title.

17          Q.     An application form?

18          A.     I don't know what they call it, to be very  
19    honest with you. It's part of it but I don't know the  
20    specific name.

21          Q.     Did you see the Career Service Class  
22    Specification for each of the 11 positions--

23          A.     Yes.

24          Q.     --you applied for?

25          A.     Yes, I did.

1 Q. And for each of the respective 11, did you  
2 meet all the of the respective classifications for  
3 those 11 jobs?

4 A. Yes, I did. Yes, I did.

5 Q. Is it your belief as we sit here today that  
6 none of the jobs you were denied, of those 11, were  
7 based on lack of qualifications?

8 Let me ask it another way.

9 A. Yeah, because the way--

10 Q. You were denied ten out of 11 jobs. Were  
11 any of those ten that you know of based on a lack of  
12 qualifications for the job--

13 A. No.

14 Q. --or were they all based on your being  
15 Puerto Rican, all ten of the denials?

16 A. I believe they were all because I was  
17 Puerto Rican.

18 Q. Do you know if any of them were based on  
19 lack of qualifications?

20 A. No, I don't. I don't know that.

21 Q. What have you done to find out if that's  
22 true, if it was based on being Puerto Rican, based on  
23 you just weren't qualified for the job?

24 A. What have I done. I filed a lot of  
25 grievances with the department, I've had verbal

1 meetings with them, I called Tallahassee back. So I  
2 didn't know what more to do. That's it.

3 And after 11 times you try, then that's it.

4 Q. Were you ever told you just weren't  
5 qualified for the job you applied for?

6 A. In the letter, yes, that I got. Every  
7 letter said that they found somebody more qualified or  
8 something like that. I guess it's yes or no.

9 Q. Did they say they found somebody more  
10 qualified or did they say you weren't qualified for  
11 the job?

12 A. That somebody else got the position. And  
13 that's it. It was a three letter--it was a one-page  
14 letter that said, We found somebody else that got the  
15 position. Thank you very much for applying. And  
16 that's all I remember.

17 Q. Did it ever say you were unqualified?

18 A. I don't recall. I don't recall exactly.

19 Q. Did it ever say someone else was more  
20 qualified?

21 A. I don't recall.

22 Q. What have you done to show that you were  
23 more qualified for these positions, these ten  
24 positions, than the person who got them?

25 A. Well, the department has records of what I

1 did within the department, so they know that I was  
2 qualified for the position.

3 Q. What have you done to show that you were  
4 more qualified for any of these ten positions?

5 A. I don't--you know, I worked there so I knew  
6 I was qualified. What do you do more than working and  
7 work performance?

8 Q. What did you do to show them you were more  
9 qualified?

10 A. The--every three months they find out if  
11 you meet the requirements of the department and if you  
12 are doing your job, and if you have a good evaluation  
13 that means you are qualified for promotion. That is  
14 what I did. I passed every evaluation so I did  
15 qualify for a promotion whether I got it or not.

16 It's there in the records, that's why I'm  
17 surprised at all these questions. They have the  
18 records, they know I'm qualified.

19 Q. Is it your position that passing an  
20 evaluation, a prior evaluation for the job you are in  
21 makes you automatically qualified for a promotion?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. Do you know if you lacked any experience or  
24 qualifications for any of the ten positions you were  
25 denied?



1 A. No.

2 Q. No, you don't know or no, you didn't lack  
3 any of the qualifications?

4 A. No, I don't know.

5 Q. So if you don't know whether you were  
6 qualified for these positions, you can't say for sure  
7 whether you didn't get them because you were Puerto  
8 Rican or because you just simply weren't qualified, is  
9 that correct?

10 MR. BEINHAKER: Objection to the form.

11 A. I know that I didn't get them because I'm  
12 Puerto Rican.

13 Q. How do you know that?

14 A. Because I qualified.

15 Q. You just told me you don't know if you had  
16 the qualifications for these positions and now you're  
17 telling me you know you were qualified; which is it?

18 A. No, no, what--you see, what you're asking  
19 me, the way you're asking me these questions, and  
20 you're not asking it as a yes or no answer, what  
21 you're asking me right now is you're trying to say,  
22 Well, did I have to show proof. You're making it  
23 sound like I have to show proof that--

24 Q. Let me start again.

25 A. Yes, because--

1 Q. Did you meet all of the qualifications for  
2 all of these ten positions when you applied for each,  
3 respectively?

4 A. Of course. Of course.

5 Q. You know you met every--

6 A. I know I qualified as far as my performance  
7 reviews for promotions. Based on the service program  
8 and what they were asking for, yes, I did qualify.

9 Q. Do you know if you met all of the qualifi-  
10 cations that were listed?

11 A. Not all. See, when you throw in the word  
12 all, I don't know that I met all. But 80 percent,  
13 yes, I can say I did.

14 Q. So you don't know if you met all of the  
15 qualifications, is that your testimony?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So you can't tell me as we sit here today  
18 the reason were you not hired for these positions or  
19 given these promotions was not based on a lack of  
20 qualifications one hundred percent; you don't know  
21 that, do you?

22 MR. BEINHAKER: Object to the form.

23 A. No, I don't.

24 Q. It's your position, however, that the  
25 reason you did not get these positions has nothing to

1 do with your qualifications, it has only to do with  
2 your being Puerto Rican?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. OPPENHEIMER: It's a little before 3  
5 o'clock right now, we're at right about three  
6 hours. I know you said you wanted to take a  
7 break so what we'll do is we'll adjourn this and  
8 reserve the rest of the time for when it's  
9 convenient to finish up this deposition.

10 MR. BEINHAKER: Fair enough.

11 (Thereupon, the deposition was adjourned at  
12 3:00 p.m., sine die.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF DADE )

4 I, the undersigned authority, certify that

5 CARMEN BLANCO personally appeared before me and was

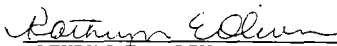
6 duly sworn.

7 WITNESS my hand and official seal this

8 4 day of April, 2001.

9

10

  
KATHRYN E. OLIVER  
Notary Public - State of Florida  
My Commission No. CC 829931  
Expires: 5/15/03

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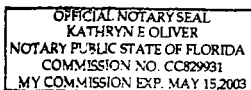
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## 1 REPORTER'S DEPOSITION CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )  
3 )  
4 COUNTY OF DADE )

5 I, KATHRYN E. OLIVER, Court Reporter,  
6 certify that I was authorized to and did  
7 stenographically report the deposition of CARMEN  
8 BLANCO; and that the transcript is a true and complete  
9 record of my stenographic notes.

10 I further certify that I am not a relative,  
11 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties,  
12 nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
13 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am  
14 I financially interested in the action.

15 DATED this 4 day of April, 2001.

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KATHRYN E. OLIVER

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE DIVISION

CARMEN BLANCO,

CASE NO. 00-6006-CIV-ZLOCH

Plaintiff,

MAGISTRATE JUDGE SELTZER

v.

MICHAEL W. MOORE, Secretary  
of the FLORIDA DEPARTMENT  
OF CORRECTIONS, in his Official  
Capacity, and FLORIDA DEPT. OF  
CORRECTIONS.

Defendants.

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**DEFENDANT, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS' ANSWERS TO  
PLAINTIFF'S FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES**

Defendant, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, by and through its undersigned attorneys, answers the Plaintiff's First Set of Interrogatories dated September 20, 2000, as follows:

I Please state the name, address and telephone number of each person who participated in, or contributed to, answering these interrogatories.

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ANSWER: Margaret Scott Chrisawn  
Department of Corrections  
Bureau of Personnel  
2601 Blair Stone Road Tallahassee, FL 32301

2. Please state the names of witnesses with knowledge or information relevant to the subject matter of this action, including addresses if known, and the nature and substance of each witness's knowledge.

ANSWER: The following persons have knowledge of Plaintiff's employment with Defendant, her job performance, applications for promotional positions, or issue of alleged discrimination she may have raised during her employment. For current employees, their business addresses are shown. For former employees who were not certified officers and whose addresses are therefore not exempt from the provisions of Chapter 119, the last known address is indicated:

Joyce D. Haley  
Tony V. Harper  
Kristine Simpson  
189 East SW First Street  
Suite 201  
Delray Beach, FL 33431

Gary Rogatz  
4343 West Flagler Street  
Suite 100  
Miami, FL 33130

Barry Groves  
[REDACTED]

Grace Fishter  
[REDACTED]

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Thomas Stillson  
1400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Second Floor  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309


Linda Scarlett  
Former Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor

Nancy Diane Knight  
1400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Second Floor  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Ronald E. Crosby  
1400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Second Floor  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Karen McDonald  
10 West Olas Boulevard  
Suite 100  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Arline Weiss  


Carl Berry  


Teresa Baker  




3. Please state the names of all persons Defendant intends to depose or call as witnesses to trial regarding the facts and circumstances of the subject matter of this action, including addresses if known, and the nature of each witness' knowledge.

ANSWER: Those persons identified in response to No.2 above will likely be called as witnesses. Because discovery is ongoing, we do not know the subject matter of their knowledge. However, defendant's counsel reserves the right to call additional witnesses based on the progress of discovery in this matter. The identity of any additional witnesses, if any, will be made available to Plaintiff through her counsel.

4. Please state the name, position and business address of each person employed by Defendant, or any agent of Defendant, who has custody, control, or possession of any documents relating to Plaintiff's employment with Defendant.

ANSWER: Thomas Stillson, Personnel Officer, Ft. Lauderdale Service Center, 1400 West Commercial Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309, has custody of documents relating to plaintiff's employment, specifically her complete personnel and confidential medical files.

5. Please identify the existence, custodian, location, and general description of documents relevant to the subject matter of this action, including pertinent insurance agreements, and other physical evidence, and information of similar nature.

ANSWER: Plaintiff's complete personnel file and any application and selection packets for promotional positions for which she applied that have not been destroyed in accordance the Department of State Records Retention Schedule are maintained by Thomas Stillson at the address identified in No. 4 above.

Official files regarding Plaintiff's charge of alleged discrimination filed with EEOC are in the custody of Margaret Chrisawn at the address identified in No. 1 above.

6. Please identify any and all policies of insurance that you contend cover or may cover you for the allegations set forth in Plaintiff's Complaint and as to each policy, please state:

- a. The name of each insurer;
- b. The number of each policy;
- c. The effective date of each policy;
- d. The limits of liability of each policy; and
- e. The name and address of the custodian of each policy.

ANSWER: Defendant is covered by a general liability policy, as are agencies. Specifics regarding this policy as requested herein, of which policy Defendant does not have custody, must be obtained from the Department of Insurance, Division of Risk Management.

7. Please state with specificity Defendant's discrimination policies in effect at the time of Plaintiff's employment with Defendant. Please state the date each policy was created and the date each policy went into effect. Describe how these policies were developed, implemented, disseminated and enforced, and identify all documents which relate to the policies, their creation, implementation, dissemination and enforcement, and identify all documents upon which you rely in responding to this interrogatory.

ANSWER: Defendant has two policy statements concerning discrimination: one covering Title VII, and the other specifically addressing sexual harassment. The Title VII anti-discrimination policy statement was first developed in 1988, as was the policy on sexual harassment. Both were developed by Defendant's Civil Rights Unit, now the Employee Relations Section, who also has the responsibility for revising these policy statements, and has done so in 1992, 1995 and 1997. The policy statements are signed by Defendant's Secretary and Deputy Secretary and copies are posted on official bulletin boards in every institution, facility, and offices statewide. Additionally, each new employee, without exception, is given copies of the policy statements during orientation, and must sign a receipt acknowledging that he/she has read, understood and will comply with the provisions of the policy statements. When the policy statements are revised, each employee is given a copy for which he must

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sign an acknowledgment. Further, Defendant has mandatory training for all employees on discrimination, and the discipline that may result from violation of Defendant's policy statements on discrimination

Copies of the policy statements and relevant documents will be produced in response to Plaintiff's First Request to Produce No. 19.

8. Please state the name, last known address, and telephone number of all applicants or employees who have complained or charged, either orally or in writing, internally or externally, Defendant or any of Defendant's agents or employees with national origin or racial discrimination within the past 10 years, and identify all documents upon which you rely in responding to this interrogatory.

ANSWER: Object as to scope and relevancy. Object that request is overly broad. Plaintiff's allegations are based on national origin and retaliation only, not racial discrimination. Further, complaints filed statewide both before and after Plaintiff's employment have no bearing on the subject of this action. Plaintiff only worked at one Department of Corrections facility. Request should be limited to that facility or region where the facility is located. Without waiving the foregoing objections, defendant states that the following employees or applicants have filed complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of national origin and/or retaliation in Region IV, where Plaintiff was employed, between 1993 and 1998, when Plaintiff was employed with Defendant. Defendant relies on its official copies of their complaint files for its answers to this interrogatory. The home addresses and telephone numbers of former employees who were correctional officers or correctional probation officers are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of Chapter 119, and cannot be provided.

Jane E. Abel  
Putnam Correctional Institution  
Post Office Box 279  
East Palatka, FL 32131  
(904) 325-2857

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Anthony Acierno  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Abdolmajid Amirzadehsbams  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Julio C. Casanova  
1400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Second Floor  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309  
(954) 202-3800

Deverine Christopher

Maria Garcia  
1400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Second Floor Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309  
(954) 202-3800

Amparo Glukstad  
South Florida Reception Center  
Post Office Box 02-8538  
Miami, FL 33102  
(305) 592-9567

Jorge L. Gonzalez  
1400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Second Floor  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309  
(954) 202-3800

Paraskevas Kililis

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Shirley Mitchell

Agustin Novo  
Everglades Correctional Institution  
1601 SW 187 Avenue  
Miami, FL 33185

Aida Pacheco  
1400 west Commercial Boulevard  
Second Floor  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309  
(954) 202-3800

Tyrone Rodriguez

Jose Rodriguez

Norman Silversmith  


Ayotunde R Ware  
South Florida Reception Center  
Post Office Box 02-8538  
Miami, FL 33102  
(305) 592-9567

9. Please state whether or not the Plaintiff was eligible and qualified for any promotion during her employment with Defendant and, if your answer is in the negative, explain the basis for such answer.

ANSWER: Plaintiff applied for seven promotions during her employment with Defendant. She was eligible and qualified for five of these positions. She was determined ineligible two positions based on the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) listed for the positions.

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10. Please list each promotional position for which Plaintiff applied, and the complete reason she did not obtain each. Additionally, please list the names, addresses, and phone numbers, if known, of the individual who received such positions.

ANSWER: Position #12513 - Personnel Aide - closing date January 5, 1994

Although Plaintiff was qualified, the hiring authority selected another applicant as better suited.

Position received by:

Michelle A. Gruss

10250 Harbor Inn Place, #20

Coral Springs, FL 33071

(954) 753-3058

Position #079167-Administrative Secretary-closing date January 31, 1996

Although Plaintiff was qualified, the hiring authority selected another applicant as better suited.

Position received by:

Nineata Maso Demoya

1400 West Commercial Boulevard

Second Floor

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Position #13357-General Services Specialist [Facilities Services Manager Assistant]-closing date February 7, 1996

Plaintiff was determined to be ineligible based on the KSAs listed for this position. Specifically, she lacked the requisite experience.

Position received by:

Douglas A. Sweredoski

1225 Omar Road

West Palm Beach, FL

Position #24494-Purchasing Agent II-closing date January 31, 1996

Plaintiff was determined to be ineligible based on the KSAs listed for this

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position. Specifically, she lacked the requisite experience.

Position received by:

Jesse F. Nolan

1400 West Commercial Boulevard

Second Floor

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Position #30643-Senior Clerk-closing date January 31, 1996

Although Plaintiff was qualified, the hiring authority selected another applicant as better suited.

Position received by:

Linda DeFelice

1400 West Commercial Boulevard

Second Floor

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Position #05836-Executive Secretary-closing date May 15, 1996

Although Plaintiff was qualified, the hiring authority selected another applicant as better suited.

Position received by:

Fe Gonzalez Sorrell

1400 West Commercial Boulevard

Second Floor

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Position #27756-Fiscal Assistant II-closing date October 25, 1997

Although Plaintiff was qualified, the hiring authority selected another applicant as better suited.

Position received by:

Carolyn Baker

1400 West Commercial Boulevard

Second Floor

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

11. Describe each objective criterion relied upon by Defendant in assessing Plaintiff's work performance and eligibility and qualifications for promotion during the period she was employed by Defendant, and state all the reasons why Plaintiff failed to satisfy such criterion.

ANSWER: The objective criteria used to assess Plaintiff's or any employee's job performance are the written position description for each specific position, and the written performance standards for each position.

Employees in the personnel office who determine eligibility for each applicant or employee applying for a position, do so based on the written Career Service Class Specifications for the position, the written KSAs for the position, any screening criteria prepared for the position and the information contained on each application. These employees receive specific training in eligibility determination.

Plaintiff failed to satisfy the written KSAs for two positions because she lacked the requisite experience

12. Please state with specificity Defendant's reason for the termination of Plaintiff's employment and identify all documents upon which you rely in answering this interrogatory.

ANSWER: Plaintiff was not terminated from her employment with Defendant. Rather, she submitted a written letter of resignation dated June 29, 1998.

13. Please state the total number of persons who were employed by Defendant during Plaintiff's employment with Defendant. Include both full and part time employees. How many employees are employed by Defendant at the present time? Include both full and part time employees. Identify all documents upon which you rely in answering this interrogatory .



ANSWER: Defendant has relied on no documents for its response. Rather, a database search program was used for the numbers of full-time employees. However, the database was not created for this purpose until 1995. Defendant does not track numbers of part-time employees.

1995	24, 748 (as of June 30)
1996	26,242
1997	26,824
1998	26,808
1999	26,127
2000	25,675 (as of October 10)

14. Please state the name, last known address, and telephone number of the person with the most knowledge regarding the following:

- a. Plaintiff's termination;
- b. Defendant's harassment policies;
- c. Defendant's discrimination policies;
- d. Defendant's retaliation policies;
- e. Defendant's Answers and Affirmative Defenses

ANSWER: Because Plaintiff was not terminated from her employment with Defendant, there is no person having knowledge with regard to this issue. However, those individuals with knowledge concerning her resignation are Joyce Haley, Gary Rogatz, Barry Groves, Grace Fishter, and Karen McDonald, whose addresses are provided in response to No. 2 above.

Margaret Scott Chrisawn, address also provided in No. 2 above, has most concerning Defendant's policies with regard to discrimination.

Defendant's Answer and Affirmative Defenses  
Counsel for Defendant in this matter, but most knowledge is subject to attorney-client and work-product privileges

Blanco v. Florida Dept. of Corrections, et al.  
Case No. 00-6006-CIV-ZLOCH  
Page 13

15. Identify all persons Defendant intends to call as expert witnesses at trial, the nature of each witness' testimony, the basis of the testimony, and the reasons for the testimony.

ANSWER: None at this time. Defendant reserves the right to supplement this response.

16. Please state the following as to each expert witness:
- All data and information considered by the expert in forming his opinions;
  - All exhibits to be used as a summary of or in support for the opinions;
  - List the qualifications of the expert, including a list of all publications authored by the expert within the preceding ten years;
  - The amount of compensation to be paid for the expert's study and testimony; and
  - All other cases in which the expert has testified as an expert at trial or by deposition within the preceding four years.

ANSWER: See answer to No. 15.

17. State whether any of Defendant's management officials or any outside consultant made any inquiry or investigation into any of Plaintiff's allegations of discrimination during the period in which Plaintiff was employed and, if so, identify all persons who made or assisted in such inquiry or investigation, and identify all documents referring or relating to such inquiry or investigation.


ANSWER: Defendant does not use any outside consultant for inquiries or investigations into allegations of discrimination, and has no knowledge whether Plaintiff's allegations were investigated by agents of EEOC.

Plaintiff's allegations of discrimination filed with DOC's EEOC were investigated by Correctional Officer Senior Inspector Philip B. Speer with Defendant's Inspector General's Office

If and when Plaintiff alleged discrimination or harassment other than through the Complaint process, management responded as

Blanco v. Florida Dept. of Corrections, et al.  
Case No. 00-6006-CIV-ZLOCH  
Page 15

KUBICKI DRAPER  
Attorneys for Defendants  
City National Bank Building  
25 West Flagler Street, PH  
Miami, Florida 33130  
Tel: (305) 982-6612  
Fax: (305) 374-7846

By:   
ELIZABETH M. RODRIGUEZ  
Florida Bar No. 821690

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing was sent by and by U.S.  
Mail this 2nd day of June, 2000, to: ANDREW S. HENSCHEL, ESQ.,  
Henschel and Henschel, P.A., 951 NE 167 Street, Suite 205, North Miami Beach, FL  
33162.

  
ELIZABETH M. RODRIGUEZ

PR05 0  
PERB005

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

03/23/98 11.51.  
PRNT: PAGE 00

SSN:

NAME: BLANCO, CARMEN D.

ADDRESS

SEX: F BIRTH DATE: 07/09/50  
BACKGROUND:

RACE: HISPANIC

## APPL DATE

## APPLICANT HISTORY

Sr Clerk PG 11

03/29/93 POSITION: 07945 CLASS: 0004 LOCATION: U4PP CLOSING: 03/31/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: Y ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: N NOT HIRED AS OF: 04/20/93 APPT. TYPE: N  
04/13/93 POSITION: 13473 CLASS: 0004 LOCATION: U4PP CLOSING: 04/14/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: N ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: N NOT HIRED AS OF: 05/05/93 APPT. TYPE: N  
04/13/93 POSITION: 23908 CLASS: 0004 LOCATION: U4PP CLOSING: 04/14/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: Y ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: N NOT HIRED AS OF: 05/12/93 APPT. TYPE: N

PF9 - TRANSFER TO PR01

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Attachment C

PR05 0 [REDACTED]  
PERB005

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

03/23/98 11.52.  
PRNT: PAGE 00SSN: [REDACTED]  
ADDRESS [REDACTED]

NAME: BLANCO, CARMEN D.

SEX: F BIRTH DATE: 07/09/50

RACE: HISPANIC

BACKGROUND:

pg 10

## APPL DATE APPLICANT HISTORY

Sec Spec

06/21/93 POSITION: 12807 CLASS: 0105 LOCATION: U4PP CLOSING: 06/30/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: N ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: H HIRED AS OF: 07/16/93 APPT. TYPE: O pg 10  
12/08/93 POSITION: 15653 CLASS: 0090 WPSY LOCATION: U4PP CLOSING: 12/08/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: N ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: H HIRED AS OF: 01/07/94 APPT. TYPE: O  
12/30/93 POSITION: 12513 CLASS: 1003 LOCATION: U400 CLOSING: 01/05/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: Y ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: N NOT HIRED AS OF: 03/14/94 APPT. TYPE: N

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pg 12

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PR05 0  
PERB005

APPLICANT INFORMATION

03/23/98 11.52.  
PRNT: PAGE 00

SSN:  
ADDRESS

NAME: BLANCO, CARMEN D.  
SEX: F BIRTH DATE: 07/09/50  
BACKGROUND:

RACE: HISPANIC

APPL DATE APPLICANT HISTORY

01/31/96 POSITION: 07916 CLASS: 0108 LOCATION: U4PP CLOSING: 01/31/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: Y ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: N NOT HIRED AS OF: 04/05/96 APPT. TYPE: N  
01/31/96 POSITION: 13357 CLASS: 0831 <sup>admit, p 12</sup> LOCATION: U400 CLOSING: 02/07/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: Y ELIG?: N INELIG/RECOMM RSN: EX LACKS EXPERIENCE  
APPL. STATUS: I INELIGIBLE AS OF: 02/07/96 APPT. TYPE: N  
01/31/96 POSITION: 24494 CLASS: 0812 <sup>admit, p 12</sup> LOCATION: U400 CLOSING: 01/31/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: N ELIG?: N INELIG/RECOMM RSN: EX LACKS EXPERIENCE  
APPL. STATUS: I INELIGIBLE AS OF: 02/01/96 APPT. TYPE: N

PF9 - TRANSFER TO PR01

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PF5 = USERID WHO LAST UPDA

Page: 1 Document Name: Cd.

PR05 0 [REDACTED]  
PERB005

APPLICANT INFORMATION

03/23/98 11.53.  
PRNT: PAGE 00

SSN: [REDACTED] NAME: BLANCO, CARMEN D.  
ADDRESS [REDACTED] SEX: F BIRTH DATE: 07/09/50 RACE: HISPANIC  
[REDACTED] BACKGROUND:

APPL DATE APPLICANT HISTORY

01/31/96 POSITION: 30643 CLASS: 0004 LOCATION: U4PP CLOSING: 01/31/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: Y ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN: *Ext Sec Pg 15*  
APPL. STATUS: N NOT HIRED AS OF: 02/13/96 APPT. TYPE: N  
05/09/96 POSITION: 05836 CLASS: 0114 LOCATION: U400 CLOSING: 05/15/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: Y ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: N NOT HIRED AS OF: 05/22/96 APPT. TYPE: N  
06/11/96 POSITION: 13254 CLASS: 0004 LOCATION: U400 CLOSING: 06/12/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: N ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: N NOT HIRED AS OF: 07/30/96 APPT. TYPE: N

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PRO5 0 [REDACTED]  
PERB005

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

03/23/98 11.53.  
PRNT: PAGE 00

SSN: [REDACTED]

NAME: BLANCO, CARMEN D.

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

SEX: F BIRTH DATE: 07/09/50

RACE: HISPANIC

BACKGROUND:

APPL DATE 10/15/97 POSITION: 27756 CLASS: 1418 LOCATION: U400 CLOSING: 10/15/  
VETERAN PREF: N SOURCE: SR SELF REFERRAL CERT: 0 NONE  
REQ FOR PROM: Y ELIG?: Y INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: N NOT HIRED AS OF: 11/10/97 APPT. TYPE: N  
\*\*END\*\* POSITION: CLASS: LOCATION: CLOSING:  
VETERAN PREF: SOURCE: CERT:  
REQ FOR PROM: ELIG?: INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: AS OF: APPT. TYPE:  
POSITION: CLASS: LOCATION: CLOSING:  
VETERAN PREF: SOURCE: CERT:  
REQ FOR PROM: ELIG?: INELIG/RECOMM RSN:  
APPL. STATUS: AS OF: APPT. TYPE:

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EMPLOYEE HISTORY BROWSE

08/02/1999 16:01:35

ETB/1

SSN..... NAME..... BAKER, CAROLYN SUF..  
POSITION..... 27756 CLASS/NAM (01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II  
COPES ORG..... 304000 SAMAS ORG.. 70040100221 FTE..... 1.00

DATE	POS	ORG	ACTION	CO	CLASS/PREVIOUS NAME	PAY RATE
05211999	27756	703040	PERF EVAL(R)	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
10021998	27756	703040	MISC CHG	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
10011998	27756	703040	PAY CHG (29)	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
05221998	27756	703040	STATUS CHG	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
04011998	27756	703040	MISC CHG	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
01011998	27756	703040	PAY CHG (29)	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
12011997	27756	703040	MISC CHG	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
11241997	27756	703040	ORIGINAL	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
05091997	27756	703040	SEPARATE(01)	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
04171997	27756	703040	MISC CHG	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
04161997	27756	703040	PERF EVAL(R)	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
01011997	27756	703040	PAY CHG (29)	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
04161996	27756	703040	PERF EVAL(7)	06	(01/1418) FISCAL ASSISTANT II	

P -  
NEXT SSN - DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DISPLAY MORE? -  
EMP INQ MENU -  
MAINT MENU -

EMPLOYEE HISTORY BROWSE

08/02/1999 16:04:29

ETB/1

SSN..... NAME..... BAKER,CAROLYN SUF..  
 POSITION..... 27756 CLASS/NAM (01/1418)FISCAL ASSISTANT II  
 COPES ORG..... 304000 SAMAS ORG.. 70040100221 FTE..... 1.00

DATE	POS	ORG	ACTION	CO	CLASS/PREVIOUS NAME	PAY RATE
01011996	27756	703040	PAY CHG (29)	06	(01/1418)FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
05231995	27756	703040	PERF EVAL(7)	06	(01/1418)FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
11271994	27756	703040	PERF EVAL(7)	06	(01/1418)FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
11271994	27756	703040	STATUS CHG	06	(01/1418)FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
11011994	27756	703040	PAY CHG (29)	06	(01/1418)FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
05271994	27756	703040	ORIGINAL	06	(01/1418)FISCAL ASSISTANT II	
05271994	27756	703040	ERROR CORR	06	(01/1418)FISCAL ASSISTANT II	

P \_

NEXT SSN - DATE -

EMP INQ MENU -  
 MAINT MENU -

LAST HISTORY TRANSACTION FOR THIS EMPLOYEE IS DISPLAYED

EMPLOYEE HISTORY BROWSE

08/02/1999 15:45:58

ETB/1

SSN.....

NAME..... BLANCO,CARMEN D

SUF..

DATE	POS	ORG	ACTION	CO	CLASS/PREVIOUS NAME	PAY RATE
05251994	18477	703040	STATUS CHG	06	(01/0090)WORD PROCESSING SYST	
01211994	18477	703040	REASSIGNMENT	06	(01/0090)WORD PROCESSING SYST	
01161994	12807	703040	STATUS CHG	06	(01/0105)SECRETARY SPECIALIST	
01071994	15653	703040	REASSIGNMENT	06	(01/0090)WORD PROCESSING SYST	
10011993	12807	703040	PAY CHG (29)	06	(01/0105)SECRETARY SPECIALIST	
07161993	12807	703040	REASSIGNMENT	06	(01/0105)SECRETARY SPECIALIST	
07161993	12807	703040	STATUS CHG	06	(01/0105)SECRETARY SPECIALIST	
03131993	21210	703040	PERF EVAL(D)	06	(01/0090)WORD PROCESSING SYST	
09131992	21210	703040	STATUS CHG	06	(01/0090)WORD PROCESSING SYST	
03131992	21210	703040	ORIGINAL	06	(01/0090)WORD PROCESSING SYST	

P \_

NEXT SSN - DATE

EMP INQ MENU \_

MAINT MENU \_

LAST HISTORY TRANSACTION FOR THIS EMPLOYEE IS DISPLAYED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
Fort Lauderdale Division

CASE NO.: 00-6006-CIV-ZLOCH

CARMEN BLANCO, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
vs. )  
 )  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF )  
CORRECTIONS, )  
 )  
Defendant. )  
----- )

**COPY**

Suite 1600  
One East Broward Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
Monday, 10:00 a.m.  
March 19, 2001

D E P O S I T I O N

of

KAREN McDONALD  
Taken on behalf of the Plaintiff  
pursuant to a Notice of Taking Deposition

-----  
THOMAS H. INMAN  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
Registered Professional Reporter  
\* \* \* \* \*  
9704 Northeast 2nd Avenue  
Miami Shores, Florida 33138  
(305) 754-7056

THOMAS H. INMAN

APPEARANCES:

HENSCHEL & HENSCHEL, P.A.,  
BY: DREW BEINHAKER, ESQ.,  
On behalf of the Plaintiff.

KUBICKI DRAPER  
BY: ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.,  
On behalf of the Defendant.

\* \* \* \* \*

I N D E X

WITNESS

DIRECT CROSS REDIRECT RECROSS

KAREN McDONALD

3

\* \* \* \* \*

1 THEREUPON:

2 KAREN McDONALD

3 was called as a witness and, having been duly sworn,  
4 was examined and testified as follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. BEINHAKER:

7 Q. Good morning, Miss McDonald.

8 How are you today?

9 A. All right.

10 Q. My name is Drew Beinhaker. I am an  
11 attorney in a lawsuit with the Department of  
12 Corrections.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. I am going to ask you a few questions  
15 today. If you don't understand a question, please tell  
16 me so that I know you didn't understand it.

17 I ask that you say yes or no instead of  
18 um-hum or uh-uh, so the court reporter can take down  
19 your response.

20 Please state your full name for the  
21 record.

22 A. Karen Wendy McDonald.

23 Q. Miss McDonald, are you under any  
24 medication currently?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Is there anything that would prevent you  
2 from understanding or being able to answer the  
3 questions I ask you?

4 A. No.

5 Q. What is your Social Security number?

6 A. [REDACTED]

7 Q. And your residence address currently?

8 A. [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]

10 Q. How long have you lived at that address?

11 A. Since December 29th of last year. We just  
12 bought it.

13 Q. Prior to living there, where did you live?

14 A. [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]

16 Q. Are you currently married?

17 A. Yes. I'm going through a divorce.

18 Q. Your husband's name?

19 A. Is that relevant, because, I mean, we're  
20 not together since '92.

21 Q. It's for identification purposes.

22 A. Okay.

23 Donovan McDonald. I hate to bring his  
24 name up.

25 Q. What is your current business address?



1 A. 2928 North State Road 7, Lauderdale Lakes,  
2 Florida, 333 -- I think -- 13.

3 Q. How long have you been at that address at  
4 work?

5 A. Approximately two years we moved there.

6 Q. What is your employment status currently?

7 A. Clerical supervisor.

8 Q. With the Department of Corrections?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How long have you held that position?

11 A. Approximately four years.

12 Q. Prior to being a clerical supervisor, what  
13 position did you hold?

14 A. Criminal justice technician.

15 Q. How long did you hold that position for?

16 A. Approximately a year and a half, two  
17 years.

18 Q. Prior to that position what were you, if  
19 you can recall?

20 A. Word processing systems operator, WPSO,  
21 two years.

22 Q. So, if my math is correct, it's about '93  
23 to '94 roughly that you were a word processing  
24 operator; does that sound right?

25 A. From '92 -- I started March of '92 with

1 the department; so '92, '93, '94, yeah.

2 Q. Could you discuss a little bit about your  
3 educational background starting with high school?

4 A. I graduated high school. I have  
5 approximately maybe two years of college.

6 Q. Where did you go to high school?

7 A. In Jamaica, Saint Andrews High for Girls.

8 Q. Were you born in Jamaica?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What year were you born?

11 A. '65.

12 Q. When did you come to the States?

13 A. September of '84.

14 Q. Okay.

15 Prior to working with the DOC, did you  
16 have any other employment?

17 A. Yeah. I was in the Air Force.

18 Q. What year, approximately, were you in the  
19 Air Force?

20 A. From '86 through December of '91 and I'm  
21 currently in the Air Force Reserves still. The first  
22 one was active duty.

23 Q. Between '86 and '91 you were active duty?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. From 1984 to 1986 did you hold any

1 employment?

2 A. Yeah, McDonald's and like Woolworth and  
3 other stores.

4 Q. So, after leaving active duty with the Air  
5 Force in '91 ---

6 A. I started working with the department in  
7 March of '92.

8 Q. Other than the high school background that  
9 you had in Jamaica, was there any further educational  
10 courses that you took here in the States perhaps?

11 A. Yeah, BCC.

12 Q. What years was that, if you can recall?

13 A. Oh, '92 -- it was probably around like  
14 '93, '94 and prior to that I did some prerequisites  
15 while I was living in California in the military,  
16 evening classes.

17 Right now I'm enrolled in Scranton College  
18 in Pennsylvania doing a two-year correspondence course  
19 in applied computer science.

20 Q. What was your major and your area of study  
21 in BCC?

22 A. Just algebra, English, college courses,  
23 history.

24 Q. Was that at a night program you were  
25 taking?

1           A.     Yeah, probably evening class or a  
2     Saturday. I remember taking one Saturday class.

3           Q.     So, if I'm not mistaken, you said, clerk  
4     of supervisors with the Department of Corrections?

5           A.     The actual title is clerical  
6     supervisor/word processing systems operator supervisor.

7           Q.     What are your duties and responsibilities  
8     in that position, if you can describe them generally  
9     for me?

10          A.     I supervise approximately maybe six, five  
11     employees. Sometimes if the other supervisor is out  
12     maybe a total of eight.

13                 My primary responsibility is make sure the  
14     job gets done, the phones are answered at the front  
15     desk, the reception, take paperwork, distribute it.  
16     Typing is done for investigations, warrants, that sort  
17     of stuff. I do time sheets, evaluations, scheduling  
18     different job tasks on a weekly basis. That's  
19     primarily what I do.

20          Q.     Have you ever been in a deposition before?

21          A.     Yes.

22          Q.     Under what circumstances; were they  
23     lawsuits where you were involved as a party?

24          A.     No, no.

25                 One was for a restaurant, which I was a

1 witness to somebody falling and injuring themselves,  
2 and I was a witness in one other case in a courtroom  
3 that involved my brother and he subpoenaed me.

4 Q. How did you prepare for today's  
5 deposition?

6 A. I met with Miss Rodriguez this morning at  
7 nine.

8 Q. Can you explain or describe any of the  
9 policies with the Department of Corrections that they  
10 have for anti-discrimination; is there a written  
11 policy; is there a handbook?

12 A. Well, I'm sure there is a written policy  
13 that they don't tolerate -- they don't discriminate  
14 against race, origin, sex. I think that's on your  
15 application when you fill it out.

16 Q. Have you read the handbook?

17 A. I don't recall. I mean, I have been  
18 employed so long I probably read it when I started with  
19 the department back in '92, but I don't recall  
20 specifically what day I read it or ---

21 Q. As far as you remember, are all new  
22 employees required to read the handbook?

23 A. I can't say for sure, because they have  
24 orientation and orientation is done with the regional  
25 office. So, they probably go through a lot of that

1 stuff during the first week of employment, because they  
2 have like twenty hours of training they do and I know a  
3 lot of it is like right to know, different things that  
4 we do.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I really can't think right now  
7 specifically which ones.

8 Q. Do you know if the handbook is offered in  
9 Spanish or other languages?

10 A. I have no knowledge whether or not it is.

11 Q. Let's talk about the training you received  
12 other than just, say, the handbook training in  
13 reference to anti-discrimination or anti-sexual  
14 harassment with the Department of Corrections.

15 A. We do have a training called Human  
16 Diversity you are required to go to and it's a room  
17 full of different employees and you are basically  
18 learning everybody's culture and learn how to interact  
19 with people from different countries, race, origin, and  
20 we all go through that and we do that once a year, I  
21 believe.

22 Q. Approximately, how long is that cultural  
23 diversity training class?

24 A. If I'm not mistaken, I think it takes up  
25 about two or three days, I think.

1 Q. Are there any videos that you watch with  
2 the department with reference to anti-discrimination?

3 A. I think sometimes they do put on videos  
4 during the class.

5 Q. Were you ever the supervisor for Carmen  
6 Blanco?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. During what period of time?

9 A. Excuse me.

10 I would say approximately -- I know it was  
11 in the last part before I left.

12 Hold on a minute. Let me think.

13 Probably '98, '99, about two years,  
14 approximately.

15 Q. When you were supervising Miss Blanco,  
16 what was her employment position, if you can recall?

17 A. A word processing systems operator.

18 Q. What responsibilities did you have in  
19 overseeing her employment?

20 A. I signed her time sheet, did her  
21 evaluations, you know, scheduled different assignments  
22 for each employee, you know, to do, looked at typed  
23 work, you know, reviewed it, stuff like that.

24 Q. Do you know how many years Miss Blanco was  
25 with the Department of Corrections?

1           A.     About the same, probably seven years,  
2 approximately.

3           Q.     When was the first time you met her?

4           A.     Probably about '98 when she first came to  
5 the intake office, Downtown Fort Lauderdale. I don't  
6 recall what specific month, you know, unless I'm  
7 looking at something, but it's around about that time,  
8 I believe.

9           Q.     What role did you have in making decisions  
10 whether to hire or promote or demote, say, a word  
11 processor?

12          A.     I had no decisions as far as promote --  
13 well, as far as promotions, being that I am the  
14 supervisor, as a WPSO supervisor if you are going for a  
15 promotion, likely I am not going to be the one sitting  
16 on the panels. I usually sit on panels having  
17 something to do with my positions, which is word  
18 processing systems operator. It would be a different  
19 supervisor for that position you are applying for. If  
20 you ask me to write you a recommendation, then I would  
21 follow it if you asked me to.

22          Q.     What does the panel consist of that would  
23 hear someone seeking a promotion who is a word  
24 processing operator, either the individuals or their  
25 positions in the department, if you can remember?



1           A.     It could be like a clerical supervisor,  
2     the office supervisor and other office supervisors that  
3     would be in the panel, and it's usually three persons,  
4     a three-person panel.

5           Q.     So, it could be a clerical supervisor?

6           A.     Right. It could be a clerical supervisor,  
7     because sometimes we supervise the clerical justice  
8     technicians, which are technician positions.

9           Q.     Did you ever sit on a panel in which Miss  
10    Blanco was in front of?

11          A.     No.

12          Q.     How about would you sit on a panel where  
13    someone would take a job of word processing?

14          A.     And that's a first ---

15          Q.     Entry level.

16          A.     Right, entry level position in the  
17    department.

18          Q.     Are you familiar with the term temporary  
19    duty additive in terms of wages with the Department of  
20    Corrections?

21          A.     Not really.

22          Q.     You don't know what that is?

23          A.     No, not really.

24                   Temporary duty additive?

25          Q.     Yes.

1           A.     Unless you are referring to -- my  
2 understanding, if you are saying if a person is in one  
3 position and they are covering for somebody out in  
4 another position higher than their position, if they  
5 work in that position for over a certain amount of days  
6 time period, they are required to get paid at that  
7 position; is that what that is?

8           Q.     I am asking you if you have heard of the  
9 term.

10          A.     I don't know if that term refers to what I  
11 am trying to explain to you. That's what I understand,  
12 if that's what that is. I don't know.

13          Q.     What does it mean if your position is one  
14 of career service with the Department of Corrections?

15          A.     Career service you get paid overtime if  
16 you work overtime.

17          Q.     How do you qualify to become career  
18 service eligible?

19          A.     I guess after you do your six months  
20 probationary period then you are considered permanent,  
21 unless you are in an excluded position, which is  
22 usually just office supervisors or circuit  
23 administrators, not clerical staff.

24          Q.     Were you personally aware of any personal  
25 grievances made by Miss Blanco to the Department of

1 Corrections?

2 A. Yeah, the one that she made to me while  
3 she was under my supervision.

4 Prior to her coming to my office under my  
5 supervision, she has expressed to me things that were  
6 before being under my supervision, things that happened  
7 where she had filed grievances with former supervisors,  
8 and we are talking way back when, '92, '93, '94. So,  
9 that's from what she's told me.

10 Q. Just from what she told you is prior to  
11 her being under your supervision?

12 A. She had problems prior to coming under my  
13 supervision.

14 Q. Other than what she told you, were you a  
15 witness or do you have personal knowledge of the  
16 grievance made prior to your supervision?

17 A. If I had knowledge of them prior to the  
18 ones under my supervision?

19 Q. Other than Carmen telling you or conveying  
20 to you.

21 A. No, I had no knowledge of them whatsoever.

22 Q. What was your understanding of the nature  
23 of the complaints either before or after she came under  
24 your supervision?

25 A. Well, I'm just going by what she says or

1 how she felt she was being discriminated against and  
2 she was never promoted within the department, but  
3 that's her personal feelings or opinion.

4 Q. Do you feel that she was treated fairly at  
5 the department?

6 A. I can't speak for other people, but while  
7 she was under my supervision I did know that she did  
8 have, you know, one particular incident that took place  
9 and I don't think she was treated fairly, you know,  
10 with that particular incident that took place, and I  
11 can only speak for that one particular incident.

12 Q. And this incident you are referring to,  
13 can you explain it a little bit?

14 A. You want me to elaborate?

15 Okay.

16 One day she was under my supervision, I  
17 asked her to go to the ninth floor to retrieve a  
18 postage check, which was Mr. Rogatz' secretary, Sharon.  
19 She told me that an incident transpired up there and I  
20 was like, "That took place within the little time I  
21 sent you to get the check?"

22 I was personally called to come to Mr.  
23 Rogatz' office, which is the circuit administrator,  
24 pertaining to the incident. They told me what  
25 transpired. What they told me and what Carmen told me

1 were two different ways it happened and, you know, I  
2 was told, "Well, since I'm her supervisor I should deal  
3 with it," and I asked, "What you mean by deal with it,  
4 you know?" I was told, "I don't care what you want to  
5 do, you are her supervisor." I said, "Well, I don't  
6 intend to give her a reprimand for this. I will  
7 document we had this conversation, that your behavior  
8 is unwarranted and not tolerated in the department,"  
9 and at that time both employees should have been  
10 disciplined for what had transpired, because you can't  
11 single out one employee when both parties were wrong  
12 with their behavior and -- I mean, I did, you know, had  
13 my conversation with Carmen in the office documenting  
14 we had the conversation in the office based on the  
15 behavior and it shouldn't happen again and that  
16 behavior, the loud outbursts that took place, and  
17 that's primarily what I was documenting.

18 Q. Who was the individual that told you that  
19 she had to be reprimanded for her behavior?

20 A. Mr. Rogatz.

21 Q. Specifically, what did Carmen convey to  
22 you had happened?

23 A. He didn't really specifically say,  
24 "Reprimand her," but his statement was, "You are her  
25 supervisor, you deal with it."

1 Q. Okay.

2 What specifically did Carmen convey to you  
3 that had happened?

4 A. Well, she told me when she went up there  
5 to retrieve the check -- I had called Sharon to let her  
6 know Carmen was coming to receive the check. Carmen  
7 told her to make a copy over by the copy machine. I  
8 don't know how she spoke to her. She took offense to  
9 it. She said, "No, the copy machine is there. You  
10 could have made the copy yourself and given it to me."  
11 She refused to go over there. I guess they got verbal  
12 with each other, it escalated, and Mr. Rogatz came out  
13 of his office to see what the commotion was about. I  
14 wasn't there. I'm just going by what she said.

15 Q. Going by what Carmen told you?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. You sent her up there to make a photocopy  
18 on the ninth floor?

19 A. No. I sent her up there to retrieve a  
20 postage check.

21 Q. When you got up there ---

22 A. When she got up there.

23 Q. When she got up there, Sharon ---

24 A. Sharon was supposed to give her the check  
25 and she said, "Go make a photocopy of it."

1 Q. What did Carmen tell you happened after  
2 that?

3 A. I guess she didn't like the way Sharon was  
4 talking to her, as if she was a child, in her words,  
5 and she said no, she's not going over there to make a  
6 copy and she could have done it herself, because she  
7 knew she was on her way up to get it.

8 I guess they probably went back and forth  
9 and got loud.

10 Q. Do you have personal knowledge or are you  
11 familiar with Miss Blanco's personnel file with the  
12 Department of Corrections?

13 A. No.

14 Q. How much input did you have into her  
15 personnel file?

16 A. The only thing as far as the personnel  
17 file, when I did her evaluations they went to her  
18 personnel file. I mean, if I had to answer a memo or  
19 anything, those were all forwarded to her personnel  
20 file. I didn't, per se, ever go over to the regional  
21 office and pull her personnel file to see what was in  
22 there previous to my supervising her. I never did  
23 that.

24 Q. Would you agree with the proposition that  
25 if a negative writeup goes into someone's personnel

1 file that generally that would reflect negatively and  
2 hurt their chances of a promotion in a general sense?

3 A. I don't want to say in a general sense,  
4 because it depends on what the statement is or what's  
5 in her personnel file.

6 Q. I'm not talking about Miss Blanco in this  
7 incident.

8 Generally speaking, if someone gets  
9 written up in their personnel file in a negative way,  
10 would you agree that that will hurt his or her chances  
11 with a promotion with the Department of Corrections?

12 A. It may.

13 Q. What is the policy at the DOC, if you  
14 know, with regards to making a personnel file  
15 accessible to an employee for his or her review?

16 A. Well, I know your personnel file is at the  
17 regional office and you have to put in a request to  
18 review it. You can't walk in and say, "I want to see  
19 my personnel file." You have to request and they would  
20 set up an appointment with you, because there are  
21 certain things they pull out of the personnel file.  
22 Well, not -- if it's not you, if someone else wanted to  
23 see it, they would pull out medical from there.

24 Q. The individual can submit a written  
25 request?



1           A.     Yeah. You can see it, as long as you  
2     submit your request. I don't know if it has to be  
3     written or you can make a phone call and say, "I'd like  
4     to see my personnel file," and they schedule an  
5     appointment and set up a date for you.

6           Q.     You don't know whether the department has  
7     a written rule making accessible someone's personnel  
8     file?

9           A.     No. They may, but ---

10          Q.     Here is a copy of this. I am going to  
11     mark this as Plaintiff's Exhibit One.

12          A.     As far as -- if I can say something else  
13     with regards to the personnel file, in the office we  
14     also have working files, you know, which is kept in the  
15     office, where things like -- you know, any little  
16     thing, you know, leave requests, some memos or  
17     whatever, and, you know, that employee may want to see  
18     that too.

19          Q.     Are performance evaluations contained in  
20     these working files?

21          A.     I don't think so. They are forwarded to  
22     the personnel file.

23          Q.     So, am I understanding correctly, a  
24     working file ---

25          A.     Is just what an office supervisor wants to

1 keep tabs on this particular individual, while you are  
2 here under my supervision. It has nothing to do with  
3 your official personnel file at the regional office.

4 Q. Is it possible something would be in the  
5 working file and not in the personnel file?

6 A. It's possible.

7 Q. If you could review this document we have  
8 marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit One, is that your  
9 signature on the bottom?

10 A. Yes, it is.

11 Q. Okay.

12 You have had a chance to review it?

13 A. Um-Hum.

14 Q. First off, for identification purposes,  
15 what is this document?

16 A. A Record of Oral Step Union Grievance.

17 Q. What is that?

18 A. An employee filing a grievance.

19 Q. Okay.

20 Who was the grievant in this one?

21 A. Carmen Blanco.

22 Q. And you were her supervisor at the time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you recall specifically this incident  
25 that was reported?

1 A. I recall it happening, yeah.

2 Q. After reviewing it, does it appear to you  
3 that Miss Blanco attempted to see her personnel file?

4 A. Her working file, which is different from  
5 your personnel file.

6 Q. What is the policy for seeing your working  
7 file?

8 A. I don't believe there is a policy on  
9 seeing your working file.

10 Q. There is no written submissions that have  
11 to be made?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Can an employee just go in and take a look  
14 at his personnel file without asking the supervisor?

15 A. I would assume so.

16 Well, yeah, I would assume so. They  
17 probably do it out of courtesy. You are walking into  
18 somebody's office and she is sitting there and you  
19 would say, "Isabel, can I see my personnel file or  
20 whatever," but ---

21 Q. Who is Miss Fishter?

22 A. The office supervisor at the time. She  
23 was the office supervisor, which is my immediate  
24 supervisor.

25 Q. Does it appear to you Miss Fishter denied

1 Miss Blanco's request to see her personnel file in this  
2 grievance?

3 A. Yes, that's what Carmen is alleging.

4 Q. If I'm not mistaken, you said there was no  
5 policy for seeing a personnel file?

6 A. I never knew of one; working file, not  
7 personnel file.

8 Q. Excuse me, working file.

9 Did you ever speak with Miss Fishter about  
10 this incident?

11 A. I don't recall. I don't recall speaking  
12 to her in particular about it.

13 I vaguely remember Carmen voicing her  
14 opinion that she's not allowed to see her working file  
15 and that's a bunch of -- you know, why, and I don't  
16 think I got involved at that particular point, because,  
17 like I said, I mean, I have no -- I didn't know, you  
18 know, Miss Fishter's reasoning of not letting her see  
19 her working file. I mean, to me it was no big deal.

20 Q. You can understand why an employee would  
21 want to see his or her working file at the department?

22 A. Yes, because she probably wanted to see if  
23 there was anything in there she was not aware of.

24 Q. That leads to my next question.

25 Is there a policy within the department

1 that when something goes into the working file or  
2 personnel file of an employee, that he or she signs off  
3 on or gets notice of a file entry?

4 A. I don't know about the notice of file  
5 entry, but usually you are required to sign anything  
6 placed in the file. They give you that opportunity to  
7 review it. You can refuse to sign it. That doesn't  
8 mean it's not going to go in there.

9 Q. Is that for every entry in a personnel  
10 file or working file or just a writeup or evaluation?

11 A. Probably writeup evaluations, not for  
12 filling out a leave request or nothing like that.

13 Q. So, after Miss Blanco made this grievance  
14 that she was denied access to her working file by Miss  
15 Fishter, what was done, as far as you can recollect, in  
16 response or in reaction to this grievance?

17 You mentioned, I believe, you never spoke  
18 to Miss Fishter or you don't recall speaking to Miss  
19 Fishter.

20 A. I don't recall speaking to Miss Fishter as  
21 to why she was denying Carmen seeing her working file  
22 and I guess that's based on what Miss Blanco states  
23 here, "It could not be resolved at the Step 1 level,"  
24 because I was not denying her and being Grace was my  
25 immediate supervisor I was not going to pull it out and

1 be insubordinate to her. That's exactly what I would  
2 be doing if I did that.

3 Q. Say, for example, Grace, your immediate  
4 supervisor, was doing something you felt was  
5 inappropriate, is there anyone you could go to; if she  
6 was mistreating or discriminating to an employee, would  
7 you speak to someone above her?

8 A. I would probably try to speak to her first  
9 before going above her.

10 Q. Okay.

11 Suppose after your conversations with her  
12 things weren't reconciled and then you would go above  
13 her, who would you go to?

14 A. Mr. Barry Groves, who is the deputy  
15 circuit administrator.

16 Q. Would you hesitate to speak to Mr. Groves  
17 if you felt it was necessary to rectify a problem in  
18 the department or would you feel there was  
19 repercussions?

20 A. At that particular time I would have  
21 hesitated to speak to him.

22 Q. Why is that?

23 A. Because at the time this was going on and  
24 Carmen was filing these grievances I had knowledge she  
25 had had run ins with Mr. Rogatz before the particular

1 incident that involved myself and I had a feeling that  
2 there was bad blood between them from way back when.  
3 So, my thinking would be if this involved her and I  
4 were to go above to get it resolved nothing would come  
5 of it.

6 Q. How come, because there was a personal  
7 animus or ---

8 A. My personal opinion, I felt there was a  
9 personal, you know ---

10 Q. There were bad feelings between Mr. Rogatz  
11 and Carmen?

12 A. Right, and Mr. Groves is the deputy  
13 administrator, which is under Mr. Rogatz, so ---

14 Q. What do you feel is the reason for the bad  
15 blood or the bad feelings between those parties?

16 A. My feelings are irrelevant. I am just  
17 going primarily by what Miss Blanco stated and she told  
18 me about one incident that transpired years before she  
19 came under my supervision about a supervisor at 17-01  
20 and probably involved Diane Knight.

21 I don't know what the incident was about.  
22 She was given a reprimand and Mr. Singleton got  
23 involved and it turned out the supervisor was at fault.  
24 They made Mr. Rogatz and Mr. Groves retract the  
25 reprimand and ever since then she said they didn't like

1 what they had to do, so there has always been kind of  
2 bad vibes between them and it just carried on.

3 Q. So, the reason you mentioned you would be  
4 hesitant at that time to report a grievance made by  
5 Carmen, would be either, I think you stated, you don't  
6 feel anything would come of it positive, but in  
7 addition to that do you feel that there would be  
8 retaliation against Carmen?

9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Objection,  
10 mischaracterizes prior testimony.

11 MR. BEINHAKER: Could you read the  
12 question back, please?

13 (Thereupon, the last recorded question was  
14 read back by the court reporter.)

15 Q. (By Mr. Beinhaker) Does that conflict with  
16 what you stated prior; what would be the reason you  
17 would be hesitant to report to Mr. Groves this  
18 grievance made by Carmen?

19 A. Not particularly the grievance.

20 You said if there was a problem that  
21 couldn't be resolved and if I felt that Grace was being  
22 discriminatory, whatever, would I go above her head.

23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: In that particular  
24 instance is what she is saying. She never said  
25 she didn't forward this grievance.



1 THE WITNESS: I did forward the grievance.

2 We are not talking about the grievance.

3 Q. (By Mr. Beinhaker) I had asked you what  
4 did you do with this grievance.

5 You said you didn't speak to Miss Fishter;  
6 is that correct?

7 A. No.

8 You asked me about the working file, if I  
9 spoke to Miss Fishter about that.

10 Q. Isn't that what this grievance is all  
11 about, the substance of this grievance?

12 That's what I'm referring to.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. What happened after this grievance was  
15 made, so we can be clear?

16 A. I guess after the grievance was made I  
17 documented it and it was forwarded to the circuit  
18 office.

19 Q. And what happens with that?

20 It goes into the personnel file; does  
21 someone else review it?

22 A. I guess someone else reviews it. Once it  
23 leaves my desk and goes to the circuit office I don't  
24 know what transpires after that.

25 Q. So, as far as you know, after you

1 submitted this to the circuit office, was anything done  
2 in response to this?

3 A. I have no knowledge if there was or  
4 wasn't.

5 Q. As Carmen's supervisor, would you be in a  
6 position to have knowledge of something if it was done?

7 A. I guess I could probably call the regional  
8 office and, you know, request -- ask questions if  
9 anything was actually done on that.

10 Q. My question is, would you have known if  
11 something was done as Carmen's supervisor, if something  
12 was done in action or response to this grievance?

13 A. Not necessarily.

14 Q. Okay. That's all my question was.

15 Were you aware of any derogatory comments  
16 made about Hispanics at the Department of Corrections?

17 A. Not to my knowledge. I mean, we have  
18 diverse employee groups, Hispanics, Jamaicans, blacks,  
19 Americans, whites.

20 Q. In your years with the DOC, you never  
21 heard any derogatory comments about Hispanics?

22 A. No, not that I recall, no.

23 Q. What would be your reaction if you learned  
24 say, for example, one of Miss Blanco's supervisors said  
25 she would never go anywhere because she was Hispanic?

1 A. What would my reaction be?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. I would probably ask that supervisor how  
4 could she say a thing like that.

5 Q. How would you describe Miss Blanco's work  
6 performance at the DOC?

7 A. Well, while she was under my supervision  
8 and before her illnesses and all that, she did her job.  
9 If I asked her to do anything she would do it. If I  
10 asked her to train other employees she would do it. I  
11 had no problems with her doing her job. After her  
12 illnesses and after she was out, of course, she is not  
13 there to work.

14 Q. Do you believe an individual or an  
15 employee has a right to complain about feelings of  
16 harassment or discrimination if she feels she is wrong  
17 or right and not be retaliated against?

18 A. Yes, they have that right.

19 Q. Okay.

20 I think you mentioned before, if I'm not  
21 mistaken, that you played a role in one of the  
22 investigations of a grievance made by Miss Blanco; is  
23 that correct?

24 A. What particular grievance; you are talking  
25 about the same incident that transpired?

1 Q. The one on the ninth floor.

2 A. That's the only major incident that took  
3 place while under my supervision that I know was  
4 anything big.

5 Q. To your knowledge, was Miss Blanco ever  
6 interviewed or did she participate in this  
7 investigation other than by yourself?

8 A. Interviewed by who?

9 Q. Anyone in the department, any of the  
10 individuals responsible for conducting this  
11 investigation.

12 A. Well, I believe she probably would have  
13 spoken to Grace Fishter, the office supervisor.

14 Q. You think she probably would have or you  
15 know that she did?

16 A. I can't say if I know that she did, but I  
17 know I probably spoke to Grace Fishter after the  
18 incident after speaking to Carmen.

19 Q. Back to my question.

20 Do you know whether other than yourself  
21 anybody in the department ever interviewed her?

22 A. I have no knowledge of that. I don't  
23 know.

24 Q. Do you know whether it's normal procedure  
25 in a department when someone makes a grievance or is

1 involved, be it a victim or offender in an incident,  
2 whether he or she is given the opportunity to be  
3 interviewed or participate in an investigation?

4 A. Yeah. I have seen inspectors come in and  
5 interview individuals.

6 Q. I want to show you now -- it's a Review  
7 and Performance Planning.

8 I am going to mark that as Plaintiff's  
9 Exhibit Two, if you would take a moment to review that  
10 and let me know when you finish.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. What is this, for identification purposes?

13 A. It's a review and performance planning  
14 evaluation on an employee.

15 Q. Which employee was that?

16 A. Miss Carmen Blanco.

17 Q. And her supervisor at the time -- there is  
18 a signature; who is that?

19 A. Karen McDonald, myself.

20 Q. Under that it says Reviewing Authority's  
21 Signature; who is that?

22 A. Grace Fishter.

23 Q. What are the days this performance  
24 evaluation was conducted?

25 A. March 30th, '98.

1 Q. Can you read the comments that appear  
2 under your name?

3 A. "Miss Blanco performs her duties in a  
4 satisfactory manner. Ms. Blanco is always willing to  
5 assist and train new employees as needed. She gets  
6 along with co-workers."

7 Q. Do you stand by those statements today?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Are you aware of any training that was  
10 given to Miss Blanco that would aid her in being  
11 promoted to a new job?

12 A. No, I have no knowledge.

13 I mean, I don't know if she had any  
14 previous to being under my supervision, but while she  
15 was under my supervision ---

16 Q. No one trained her for a higher job or  
17 higher promotion?

18 A. No.

19 I mean, you really don't get trained for a  
20 higher position. There are chances that arise you can  
21 be a backup for a criminal justice technician and while  
22 you are a backup you can learn a job. If there is  
23 somebody already there as a backup when you come along,  
24 then there is -- you are not going to be able to do  
25 that, so you will be a word processing systems

1 operator. You are typing. You are not really learning  
2 anything, per se, new.

3 Q. So, in your statements here that Miss  
4 Blanco was always willing to assist and train new  
5 employees, those are entry level employees?

6 A. Yeah, word processing systems operator  
7 once they are hired.

8 Q. You mentioned something about you can  
9 become a backup; who makes the decision to become a  
10 backup?

11 A. Usually, we just ask for volunteers, "Who  
12 wants to volunteer to be a backup, because this person  
13 is leaving?"

14 Most times people don't want it,  
15 because ---

16 Q. How come?

17 A. Some people are just afraid to learn new  
18 things. Some don't want it. Some would say yes.

19 When I was a word systems processing  
20 operator I volunteered to be a criminal justice backup.  
21 To me it was challenging and it would enhance my  
22 opportunities to being promoted to that position, so I  
23 volunteered to do that. You know, those chances don't  
24 arise often within an office, because some offices only  
25 have one criminal justice technician and usually

1 somebody backs them up if they are out sick.

2 Q. Suppose there is one volunteer for this  
3 backup position; who makes the decision as to who is  
4 going to get the training?

5 A. I guess their immediate supervisor would  
6 make the decision on who would.

7 Q. As far as you know, did Miss Blanco ever  
8 make a request to be trained for a higher position?

9 A. While under my supervision?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. No.

12 Q. How about before?

13 A. I have no knowledge.

14 Q. So, if I understand correctly the training  
15 procedures for a promotion, say, for example, there is  
16 an opening for a new position not dealing with the  
17 situation where there is a backup ---

18 A. Say a clerical supervisor position.

19 Q. Okay. Let's take that, for example.

20 A. Right.

21 Q. Are all of the applicants for that  
22 position trained prior to the decision when the job is  
23 going to be given or is it ---

24 A. No, no, because a WPSO can apply for a  
25 clerical supervisor position. That's what clerical



1 supervisors do, you just get additional duties. You  
2 are doing time sheets. You are basically supervising  
3 the job you used to do. You don't need training for  
4 that, because you are already doing it.

5 Q. What are the criteria for a clerical  
6 supervisor and an application with the Department of  
7 Corrections?

8 A. Well, I know they don't require, say, a  
9 degree, you know. They probably take into  
10 consideration, you know, your job knowledge as far as,  
11 you know, the department, your duties that you do and  
12 how it would impact you being a supervisor. If you  
13 have any kind of schooling, I know that is probably  
14 taken into consideration.

15 Q. And that would reflect favorably on your  
16 chances, if you had more schooling; would you agree  
17 with that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Are you familiar with the abbreviations  
20 KSAS?

21 A. Knowledge, skills, and whatever the A  
22 means.

23 It's not on the back here; right?

24 Q. I'm not sure.

25 Knowledge, skills, and ability perhaps?

1           A.     Yes, probably knowledge, skills, and  
2     ability.

3           Q.     What, if you know, are KSAS in reference  
4     to an application for a new job?

5           A.     Okay.

6                     Say you have knowledge in, you know, like  
7     word processing 6.0, Excel, spread sheets, your typing  
8     speed is sixty words a minute versus somebody that  
9     types thirty-five words a minute, any kind of outside  
10    voluntary things that you do that would reflect good on  
11    your application, you know, involved with the  
12    community, you know, any sort of stuff.

13          Q.     Okay.

14                    Going back to what is marked as  
15    Plaintiff's Exhibit Two, if you could, I believe you  
16    mentioned that Miss Fishter was your immediate  
17    supervisor at the time?

18          A.     Yes.

19          Q.     Incidentally, what is Miss Fishter's  
20    capacity today with the department?

21          A.     She is out indefinitely sick right now, on  
22    medical leave.

23          Q.     Do you know why?

24          A.     Well, from what I know, she has some kind  
25    of illness that prevents oxygen to some part of her

1 brain that causes her to black out and she is not able  
2 to drive, based on what her doctors say, I guess.  
3 Right now she is out on medical leave. I don't know  
4 how long. I have no knowledge of that.

5 Q. How long has she been out on medical  
6 leave?

7 A. She's probably been out maybe a year, year  
8 and a half. I don't know if it's been that long, but  
9 it seems like it.

10 Q. Going back to when she was there prior to  
11 her taking leave, did you observe anything in her  
12 behavior that while at work on duty tended to give you  
13 the impression that she was mentally ill?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay.

16 You observed nothing abnormal of her at  
17 work?

18 A. No.

19 Q. How much contact, if you know, did Miss  
20 Fishter have with Miss Blanco, actual contact, prior to  
21 this evaluation in March of 1998?

22 A. Actual contact?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. I mean, she would come in the office in  
25 the mornings. Everybody walks past her office. If she

1 is in there she would say good morning. If she came to  
2 the clerical office, that is Miss Fishter, she would  
3 tell everybody, "Good morning, how are you doing  
4 today," that sort of stuff.

5 Q. I am going to mark this as Plaintiff's  
6 Exhibit Three. I will give you a chance to take a look  
7 at that, Miss McDonald. Let me know when you have had  
8 a chance to review it.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. Can you describe what that document is?

11 A. Well, basically, it's a memo from my  
12 immediate supervisor, Grace Fishter, saying that she  
13 doesn't agree with the evaluation, the comments that  
14 are in it, that I gave.

15 Q. What is the date on this -- did you say  
16 memorandum; is that what this is?

17 A. March 30th, 1998.

18 Q. In looking back now on Plaintiff's Exhibit  
19 Two, is that the same signature on Reviewing  
20 Authority's Signature on the bottom --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- as is on this memorandum, Grace  
23 Fishter?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So, this memorandum that states

1 Plaintiff's Exhibit Three, that states that she doesn't  
2 agree with the performance evaluation, is dated the  
3 same day as the date that she signs right underneath,  
4 where it mentions that she discussed the evaluation  
5 with you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you explain that?

8 A. This was probably signed earlier that day  
9 prior to this and my opinion -- I am giving you my  
10 opinion of this. I think Miss Fishter was forced to do  
11 this.

12 Q. Forced; how do you mean?

13 A. Well, when we do evaluations we are  
14 required to usually do them like -- you know, have them  
15 prepared and everything and the office supervisor and  
16 the circuit administrators usually are required to  
17 review them before we actually sit down with the  
18 employee and give it to them and if what I am recalling  
19 is correct my impression is that when this was done it  
20 was reviewed and apparently they didn't agree, meaning  
21 the circuit administrators or -- you know.

22 Q. Who would that be?

23 A. Barry Groves, specifically, the deputy  
24 administrator, didn't agree with my comments and it  
25 probably was forwarded back to Miss Fishter that they

1 didn't agree with these comments and I guess she should  
2 concur as the office supervisor, being that she is my  
3 immediate supervisor.

4 Q. So, in other words, if you read  
5 Plaintiff's Exhibit Three, it's signed by Grace  
6 Fishter, your immediate supervisor, correct me if I'm  
7 wrong, but it says, "Please be advised that on March  
8 30th, 1998, I discussed your evaluation with your  
9 immediate supervisor, Ms. Karen McDonald."

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. "I expressed my concerns and disagreed  
12 with the comments made in the evaluation based on  
13 documented evidence that have occurred during my stay  
14 at the 17-0 office."

15 A. Yeah, she expressed it after everybody  
16 reviewed it.

17 Q. How many times did she meet with you on  
18 March 30th, 1998?

19 A. Probably twice.

20 Q. Probably twice or are you guessing or do  
21 you remember it was twice?

22 A. Probably twice. I don't specifically  
23 recall it was twice, but it may have been twice.

24 Q. You met with her initially when  
25 Plaintiff's Exhibit Two was executed.

1 How much time after you signed did she  
2 sign; was it all in the same room?

3 A. Yeah, her and I signed in the same room.

4 Q. And at that time did she voice her  
5 disagreement with the evaluation to you?

6 A. Not that I recall.

7 Q. Okay.

8 Throughout your tenure at the Department  
9 of Corrections as a supervisor and all of the  
10 evaluations you did, can you ever recall Miss Fishter  
11 or any other supervisor ever disagreeing with any of  
12 your comments on a performance evaluation other than  
13 this incident?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay.

16 Now I am going to show you what I would  
17 like to mark as Plaintiff's Exhibit Four. I will give  
18 you a chance to review it and let me know when you have  
19 completed it.

20 Incidentally, for the record, I want to  
21 note Page Two of this composite exhibit is missing. It  
22 was produced in discovery and I don't know if it was  
23 our error. It was probably an inadvertent error, but,  
24 just for the record, Page Two is missing.

25 MS. RODRIGUEZ: If I have it I will give

1           it to you.

2           For the record, ours is missing it too.

3           THE WITNESS: Okay.

4           Q.     (By Mr. Beinhaker) You have had a chance  
5     to review it, Miss McDonald?

6           A.     Yes.

7           Q.     It's quite long. I apologize.

8           Could you identify what this is for the  
9     record?

10          A.     It's a taped interview with an Inspector  
11     Philip B. Speer, Jr.

12          Q.     When was this interview conducted?

13          A.     November 20th, '98, 10:16 a.m.

14          Q.     And you were the interviewee; is that  
15     correct?

16          A.     Yes.

17          Q.     If I could direct your attention, please,  
18     to Page Three, about a third of the way down, I believe  
19     you make mention of an incident; is this the incident  
20     we were talking about?

21          A.     On the ninth floor?

22          Q.     Right.

23          A.     Right.

24          Q.     How do you spell Mr. Rogatz?

25          A.     R-o-g-a-t-z.



1 Q. It's misspelled in this statement?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. He is the Third Circuit Administrator?

4 A. Right.

5 He's no longer in Broward County. Now  
6 he's transferred to Dade County.

7 Q. When was he transferred?

8 A. 2000, last year.

9 Q. Do you know why?

10 A. I don't know. They just did a switch  
11 around. They move people around occasionally.

12 Q. You don't know the specific reason for his  
13 transfer?

14 A. It was both the deputy and the circuit  
15 administrators that was switched.

16 Q. Who is the deputy?

17 A. Now, for Broward?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Mr. Edwards, John Edwards.

20 Q. Who was the former deputy?

21 A. Okay.

22 We're talking senior or deputy?

23 Q. The former senior at your division was  
24 Rogatz and he was transferred?

25 A. Replaced by Edwards.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Deputy now is Monroe.

3 Q. He is the new one?

4 A. Right, Mr. Monroe, and the old one was  
5 Barry Groves.

6 Q. And both these transfers took place in  
7 2000 you mentioned?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Do you recall what month?

10 A. No, but I don't believe they are in Dade  
11 County. I think Mr. Groves probably went to  
12 Tallahassee, I think. I'm not sure.

13 Q. You have already gone into some detail  
14 about this incident that took place on the ninth floor.  
15 I want to direct your attention to specific language  
16 that you used.

17 I think you said Carmen was singled out.  
18 I think it goes over to the fourth page on the top;  
19 what did you mean by that?

20 A. By that I meant that being -- based on  
21 what had happened and it was two employees as far as  
22 the verbal altercation and the outbursts, the loudness  
23 and whatever was transpired, my opinion of being  
24 singled out was it was as if you are to be blamed for  
25 the whole thing that transpired and that's what I got

1 from that. It wasn't, "Okay, you and -- you know, Miss  
2 Blanco, Sharon, you are both wrong. This kind of  
3 behavior will not be tolerated in the future."

4 It was like, "You are wrong and I am  
5 right," kind of this thing.

6 Q. I'm not sure if you mentioned before, but  
7 what would be the reasoning, if you know, why Miss  
8 Blanco would be singled out after this incident?

9 A. Well, like I said, based on what Miss  
10 Blanco expressed to me in the past, that there were  
11 things that had transpired between her and stuff that  
12 involved the circuit administrator and deputy  
13 administrator, she had a feeling there was some sort of  
14 resentment or retaliation on her based on these things  
15 that transpired previously.

16 Q. Okay.

17 Now I would like to know what is your  
18 view, other than what Carmen told you?

19 Do you feel this was a retaliation, her  
20 being singled out and Sharon not being reprimanded as  
21 well; do you feel this was retaliation against Carmen?

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Objection to form.

23 THE WITNESS: I can't say that would be my  
24 personal opinion and I have no knowledge whether  
25 they were.

1 Q. (By Mr. Beinhaker) That's all I'm asking  
2 you for is your view.

3 A. Yeah, I can't say whether it was.

4 Q. Okay. Fair enough.

5 If I can get you to turn to Page 5 of  
6 Plaintiff's Exhibit Four, I believe this concurs in the  
7 middle of the page what you just told us when you were  
8 posed with the question, "Would that be discrimination  
9 or would that be retaliation; I mean, you say she  
10 wasn't treated fairly?"

11 You say, "Well, I don't know. I don't  
12 know."

13 Is it fair to say you don't know today  
14 whether or not it was retaliation or discrimination?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Are you aware of an individual who was  
17 employed with the Department of Corrections named  
18 Michelle Gruss (phonetic)?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Never heard of that person?

21 A. Not that I recall, no.

22 Was she a clerical staff or officer?

23 No, I don't know the name.

24 Q. How about Nineata Maso Demoya?

25 A. Nineata, yes.

1 Q. You are familiar with Nineata?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When did she join the department?

4 A. I have no idea.

5 Q. When did you first meet her?

6 A. When I first went to the intake office  
7 back in -- let's see.

8 Approximately, about '96, when I was first  
9 promoted to clerical supervisor.

10 Q. Were you aware of a time in '96 when that  
11 individual, Miss Demoya, applied for a position of  
12 administrative secretary?

13 A. No knowledge.

14 Q. Did you have knowledge that Miss Blanco  
15 had applied for that position?

16 A. No.

17 Q. What are the qualifications, if you know,  
18 of Miss Demoya; what is her background; what would be  
19 on her application; do you know; her employment  
20 application?

21 A. The only thing I know about her is that  
22 she works on the ninth floor for the circuit  
23 administrator and deputy administrator and that's all I  
24 know pretty much. I mean, I don't know what her job  
25 entails.

1 Q. So, in 1996 who would have been the deputy  
2 administrator and senior administrator; would it be Mr.  
3 Groves and Mr. Rogatz?

4 A. Mr. Groves was a deputy administrator and  
5 Mr. Rogatz was the administrator.

6 Q. Do you know both of those individuals'  
7 ethnicity and background?

8 A. White male individuals.

9 Q. What about Miss Demoya; do you know her  
10 ethnicity?

11 A. Black female.

12 Q. Do you know Douglas Edgersky (phonetic)?

13 A. No.

14 Q. How about Jessie Dolan?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Linda DeFelice (phonetic)?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Fay Gonzalez Sorel?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Carolyn Baker?

21 A. I know a Carol Baker. I don't know if  
22 it's Carolyn Baker.

23 Q. That would be a fiscal officer?

24 A. No, no. That is not the same person.

25 Q. Do you have an opinion one way or the

1 other whether Miss Demoya would be more qualified for  
2 the position of administrative secretary in 1996 than  
3 Carmen Blanco?

4 A. No. I can't say, because I don't know  
5 what their qualifications are.

6 Q. Have you ever seen Miss Blanco's  
7 employment application?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Nor Miss Demoya's?

10 A. No.

11 Q. What is the longest period of time that  
12 you know of that an employee has been employed as a  
13 word processor in the DOC and remained in that position  
14 without receiving a promotion?

15 A. Well, as far as my knowledge serves me; I  
16 mean, we probably have people who have been there  
17 before I was employed who are probably still a word  
18 systems operator to this day.

19 Q. So, can you quantify that with a year  
20 amount?

21 A. Ten years.

22 Q. Can you give me an example of a specific  
23 individual?

24 A. I'm bad with names. Right now I can't  
25 think of anybody's name, because usually that

1 position -- you know, you may have somebody stay for  
2 six years and then they leave the department, you know;  
3 as well as, you know, it's a possibility you can have  
4 WPSOs for ten years, but I don't have any under my  
5 supervision right now.

6 Q. You don't have a specific recollection of  
7 a particular individual that would qualify for this  
8 ten-year position for being a word processing operator?

9 A. Who would qualify?

10 Q. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have ---

11 A. It's an entry level position.

12 Q. Who would be a word processor ten years?

13 A. No, I don't have recollection of a  
14 particular individual.

15 Q. You, in particular, how long was it before  
16 you were promoted?

17 How long were you with the department when  
18 you were promoted from word processor to, I believe --  
19 was it criminal justice?

20 A. Approximately two years.

21 Q. Are you able to state whether there is an  
22 average amount of years it takes within the department  
23 for someone to be promoted from word processor to a  
24 higher level position?

25 A. No.



1           Q.     Give me one minute and I should be  
2 finishing up in a second.

3                     What are some of the duties and  
4 responsibilities of a word processing systems operator?

5           A.     Reception duties, monitoring the phones,  
6 processing paperwork of new intakes that come into the  
7 office, typing up -- their primary duty is typing  
8 investigations, warrants, affidavits, letters, stuff  
9 the officers turn in that we are required to type.  
10 That's their primary function. They may have  
11 additional duties, such as processing outgoing mail,  
12 distributing incoming mail, you know, stuff like that.

13          Q.     Would it be the task of a word processing  
14 operator to have cleaning duties, clean a table, clean  
15 an office?

16          A.     No, unless they clean their own desk that  
17 they sit at.

18          Q.     If another individual employee who was  
19 above them asked them to clean, would that be something  
20 that would be typically within their responsibilities  
21 as a word processing officer?

22          A.     Well, I mean, I couldn't see somebody  
23 asking somebody to clean their office. I mean, we have  
24 a storage closet, which from time to time clerical  
25 staff, you know, are asked to go in there, usually

1 voluntarily, and help straighten out boxes and put  
2 stuff on the shelves, stuff like that; not, per se, me  
3 asking an individual to clean my office.

4 Q. When you say clerical staff, is that word  
5 processors, the clerical staff?

6 A. Yes, right.

7 We usually have people that come in at  
8 night and vacuum, clean out the bathrooms, take out the  
9 garbage.

10 Q. Janitors?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. I want to touch on one more topic. I know  
13 we spoke earlier, but I want to ask you about it.

14 You mentioned there was a backup for a  
15 position and you mentioned you can volunteer for that;  
16 is that correct?

17 A. Any employee that feels that would enhance  
18 their ability to be promoted, if it's available, they  
19 say, "Karen, I would like to be the backup for the CJs  
20 when this person leaves."

21 Q. Did you ever receive a request for that  
22 from Miss Blanco?

23 A. No, not under my supervision.

24 Q. Did she ever ask how she could obtain  
25 promotions?

1           A.     No, she never asked me, because I was  
2     under the impression she was with the department a long  
3     time and she has put in for promotions prior to being  
4     under my supervision; so she wouldn't have a need to  
5     ask me.

6           Q.     How about if she was unsuccessful in  
7     receiving the promotions; wouldn't you feel that she  
8     wasn't doing the right things to receive a promotion?

9           A.     I have no knowledge of that.

10          Q.     Other than that idea of a backup position  
11     being open when there is --

12          A.     Vacancy.

13          Q.     -- vacancy?

14          A.     Anybody can apply for it, whether they  
15     have the experience or not; as well as outside people  
16     can apply for these things too.

17          Q.     Are you aware of a person's qualifications  
18     that may be disqualifying, such as KSAS?

19                 If you don't have a certain amount of  
20     KSAS, can you be disqualified for a position; in other  
21     words, ineligible for a position?

22          A.     Disqualified?

23                 That's kind of a strong word.

24                 I would say if you interview three people  
25     for that same position and one person has CJ knowledge

1 because she was a backup, you would lean to the person  
2 who has knowledge.

3 Q. When I say disqualifying, I mean your  
4 application wouldn't be considered because you don't  
5 meet the qualifications for the position.

6 A. No, not for that position.

7 Basically, you are talking about entry  
8 level. The State requires you pass your typing test  
9 and you are able to type thirty-five words a minute and  
10 how you present yourself at the interview.

11 Q. I'm not necessarily talking about entry  
12 level. I am talking about a secretary or something  
13 above ---

14 A. No.

15 Q. You don't know of any qualification that  
16 would disqualify a person?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you feel Miss Blanco would be capable,  
19 if trained, to obtain a higher level position than word  
20 processing systems operator?

21 A. Yes. Anybody is capable of being trained  
22 in a higher position.

23 Q. So, if an individual employee expressed an  
24 interest to be trained for a higher level position,  
25 would that training automatically be given?

1           A.     Not automatically. It depends on what  
2 position.

3           Q.     Say for like ---

4           A.     The criminal justice or senior clerk, if  
5 there is no room for the person to be a backup she  
6 wouldn't be trained for that particular position.

7                     I mean, there are manuals that we have  
8 that lists like the job descriptions, steps that  
9 involve those jobs, and every clerical person has one.  
10 You can review it for -- you know, for knowledge and  
11 you can gather knowledge from that as far as what the  
12 senior clerk does, the steps that are involved. You  
13 can do that stuff.

14          Q.     On your own you can do it?

15          A.     Right, right.

16          Q.     Say, for example, a personal aide or  
17 administrative secretary or executive secretary or  
18 senior clerk, those positions, in order to acquire  
19 training for those, you can do them on your own; is  
20 there another avenue other than ---

21          A.     I don't know as far as personal aide or  
22 executive secretary, but like a senior clerk position,  
23 I know that those have specific job requirements and  
24 they do a specific thing. You can read what they do  
25 and everything, but for personal aide I would imagine

1 they would go by how many years experience you have as  
2 far as office work and knowledge in computer skills or  
3 whatever, probably education, but everybody has the  
4 opportunity to apply for a position.

5 Q. While under your supervision, under your  
6 direct supervision, do you know what positions Miss  
7 Blanco had applied for?

8 A. Under my supervision?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you know if she applied for any?

12 A. Not to my knowledge that I recall. I  
13 don't recall that she did or not. She may have, but I  
14 don't recall. She may not have told me, because that's  
15 something that some employees don't really tell you.

16 Q. You being her direct supervisor, wouldn't  
17 you play a role in determining whether or not she would  
18 be accepted for that position?

19 A. The only role would be when they actually  
20 like do her reference thing and they would call like  
21 her supervisor and they would ask me questions like,  
22 you know, "How long has she been under your  
23 supervision? Do you want to add any comments that  
24 would enhance her ability in getting this position?"

25 Q. You don't recall that ever happening?

1           A.     I don't recall anybody ever calling me to  
2 ask me my personal opinion of Miss Blanco with regards  
3 to any promotion.

4           Q.     Do you recall while being a supervisor at  
5 the DOC any other employees being called or referred  
6 upon when they were applying for a promotion?

7           A.     Yeah, Beth Burns, Elizabeth Burns. I  
8 remember when she was under my supervision she applied  
9 for the criminal justice technician position.

10          Q.     And you received a call from someone  
11 within the department asking for your view on the  
12 qualifications and the like?

13          A.     Well, the particular position she was  
14 going for was still at that same office; so it was with  
15 the other clerical supervisor. She supervised that  
16 position, so we were all in the same office.

17          Q.     Anybody else that you had input on when  
18 they were applying for a promotion within the  
19 department?

20          A.     No, not that I recall.

21                 MR. BEINHAKER: That's all I have.

22                 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I have no questions.

23                 (Discussion off the record.)

24                 MR. BEINHAKER: You have the option to  
25 either review your transcript and read it to

1 check for clerical errors and make sure the  
2 testimony you gave was accurate or you can waive  
3 that option.

4 THE WITNESS: I'll waive it.

5 (Thereupon, the reading and signing of the  
6 deposition were waived.)

7 (Thereupon, the deposition was concluded  
8 at 11:25 a.m.)  
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STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES CIRCUIT 17-0 INTAKE

**RECEIVED**

JUN 17 1998

MEMO TO: Carmen Blanco  
Word Processing Systems Operator

FROM: Grace Fishter  
Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor REGION IV - PERSONNEL

DATE: June 16, 1998

SUBJECT: WRITTEN REPRIMAND #1

This memo is to officially document that you are receiving a written reprimand for violation of DC Rule 33-4.002(4), and 33-4-003(22) Conduct Unbecoming a Public Employee.

This reprimand is based on the following: On May 4, 1998, Ms. Tranghese, WPSO, as directed by Ms. McDonald, WPSO Supervisor, placed two files on your desk for typing corrections to be made. At that point, you verbally attacked Ms. Tranghese in an outburst by stating in a loud, angry voice "In the future you are not to bring me corrections, and that after six (6) years of employment, I do not need you to do this and furthermore, you are not my supervisor."

Action of this nature cannot and will not be tolerated in the future.

As a Career Service Employee with permanent status you have the right to grieve this reprimand if you feel it is unjust. You may do so by using the Career Service Grievance Procedure or the Grievance Procedure outlined in the agreement between the State of Florida and A.F.S.C.M.E.

Grace Fishter  
Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor  
17-0 Intake Office

**RECEIVED**

JUN 17 1998

REGION IV - PERSONNEL

cc: Joyce D. Haley, Director of Regional Community Corrections  
Gary Rogatz, Correctional Probation Senior Administrator  
✓ Barry Q. Groves, Correctional Probation Deputy Administrator  
Personnel File - Carmen Blanco

Receipt and Acknowledgement: Refused to sign / 6/16/98  
Date

Witness: Karen McDonald Witness: Grace Fishter / 6/16/98

GF:ldp

**RECEIVED**

QUALITY IS CONTAGIOUS

EXHIBIT JUN 16 1998  
PAGE 1 OF 2  
CORR PROB DEPT ADMN.

CIR 17

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
Record of Oral Step  
Union Grievance

This form is to be completed by the immediate supervisor of an employee who files a grievance at the Oral Step.

CARMEN BLANCO WPSO 17-0 INTAKE OFFICE  
Grievant's Name Class Title Work Location

Date Oral Step grievance filed 6/23/98

Date and event giving rise to grievance: 6/23/98

On 6/23/98, Ms. Blanco returned to work after being out on sick leave. She asked Ms. Grace Fishter if she could review her working file at which time she indicated Ms. Fishter had denied her access to see her file. Ms. Blanco then asked, "Why?" and Ms. Fishter responded, "Because I don't want to."

What Articles of the collective bargaining agreement did the grievant allege were violated? \_\_\_\_\_

Was grievance filed within 14 days of the event? Yes

Grievant's requested remedy: That persons involved be held accountable and that an independent committee conduct an investigation.

Supervisors' decision: Based on the fact that Ms. Blanco does not feel this issue can be resolved at the Step 1 level, this writer will forward to immediate supervisor and all appropriate parties, in order to resolve this issue.

Karen McDonald  
Supervisor's signature

6/23/98  
Date employee advised of supervisor's decision

cc: Superintendent  
Personnel Manager  
Personnel File

EXHIBIT # 12  
PAGE 15 OF 20

MEMO TO: Karen McDonald  
WPSS

FROM: Carmen Blanco  
WPSO

DATE: June 23, 1998

SUBJECT: EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE REGARDING DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT IN THE  
WORK PLACE AND INDIRECT RETALIATION.

Ms. McDonald, in the past six years with the department I have been discriminated against, harassed and retaliated against indirectly. Ms. Fishter's behavior towards me in the past and in the present is hostile and unprofessional. On one occasion I voiced my opinion and told her she was wrong in her methods of solving problems, instead of fixing them she pacifies them and doesn't solve them. It is my understanding that she did the same thing to Keisha Cheeks, Chestina Montague, Beth Burns, Bill Henry and me and God knows how many others. Her hostile manner with me is affecting not only my work performance, but my health as well. She is building up my file with negative memos so as to discredit me and when I asked to see if I could look at my work file, she denied me access to my file. When I asked her why? she stated "Because I don't want to" this behavior is uncalled for. If we are allowed to look at our personnel file at the regional level then she is breaking the rules.

When there is unprofessional behavior within the Department we all have choices to make. We can look the other way, or we can stand up for what is right. I believe in doing the "Right Thing" and will continue to request that the "Right Thing" be done. All those memos that Ms. Fishter put in my file while I was out on sick leave must be addressed with higher authorities.

Until there is an investigation on Ms. Fishter's behavior towards me regarding her unprofessional behavior by an independent agency, or someone from Tallahassee, I Carmen Blanco refuse to come to work until this problem is solved.

I have followed the chain of commands to no avail and I am requesting that an independent agency or Tallahassee investigate Ms. Fishter's unprofessional behavior towards me. In the meantime I would appreciate her not addressing herself to me.

Sincerely,

*Carmen Blanco*

Carmen Blanco  
WPSO

cc: Kerry Flack, Director  
Harry K. Singletary, Secretary  
E. E. O. C.  
Attorney

EXHIBIT # *A2*  
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**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**INVESTIGATION: #98-41395  
EEOC: 15A980402**

**CORRECTIONAL INVESTIGATOR:** Philip B. Speer, Jr.

**DATE OF REPORT:** December 28, 1998

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** April 18, 1998

**CLASSIFICATION OF COMPLAINT/INCIDENT:** Discrimination based on National Origin and Retaliation

**LOCATION:** Parole and Probation Office 17-0

**COMPLAINANT:** Carmen Blanco, Former Word Processing Systems Operator, H/F, D.O.B. 07/09/50

**VICTIM:** Carmen Blanco

**SUBJECT:** Florida Department of Corrections

**WITNESSES:** Grace Fishter,  
Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor, W/F,  
D.O.B. 04/26/47

Karen McDonald,  
Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor, B/F,  
D.O.B. 06/13/65

**SYNOPSIS:**

On 07/16/98, Former Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco filed a Charge of Discrimination with the Broward County Human Rights Division and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission based on National Origin and

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Retaliation. This complaint was forwarded to the Employee Relations Section of the Bureau of Personnel on 09/24/98.

Ms. Blanco failed to respond to requests by telephone and certified letter for an interview.

A review of Ms. Carmen Blanco's personnel file did not reveal any documents concerning any discriminatory acts occurring on or after Saturday, 04/18/98, as stated in her Charge of Discrimination.

#### ALLEGATION

Former Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco has been discriminated against based on her National Origin and Retaliation.

#### FINDINGS:

On 07/16/98, Former Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco filed a Charge of Discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Broward County Human Rights Division.

Ms. Blanco indicated on the form that the date of discrimination took place on the earliest 04/18/98 and the latest 04/18/98 and it is a continuing action. It should be noted that 04/18/98, is a Saturday.

In Ms. Blanco's typed complaint the particulars are:  
"1. I have been employed by the Respondent since 3/12/92 as a Word Processor. I filed a complaint with the Respondent about being discriminated against in July, 1993 and 1996. In retaliation, I have been further discriminated against and treated differently because of my National Origin by denying me equal wages and failure to promote. I have been harassed continually since July, 1993 to the present by exposing me to a hostile, continuous and pervasive environment. I am Puerto Rican. 2. The Respondent has informed me that they do not have to give a reason for exposing me to differential treatment. 3. I believe that I have been discriminated against in

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violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 704a, and the Florida Civil Rights Act (Chapter 760)." (Exhibit #A1, page 1)

On 09/29/98, I conducted a search of the Inspector General's Office database (IGLOGS) and could not locate any investigation listing Carmen Blanco as a victim, complainant or subject. Carmen Blanco is listed as a witness in Case #94-40662, which includes Helene Sumpter as a victim and Ronald Catalano as the subject. The case concerns a verbal threat complaint and was not assigned for investigation. (Exhibit #B1, pages 1 & 2)

On 10/02/98, I reviewed Carmen Blanco's personnel file at the Regional Office.

The following information was obtained from documents located in the file:

On 12/14/93, Correctional Probation Supervisor III Linda M. Scarlett of the 17-1 Probation Office wrote an Interoffice Memorandum to Secretary Specialist Carmen Blanco reference confirmation of a meeting dated 12/14/93.

Present during this meeting was Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor Arline Wiess and copies are sent to Correctional Probation Deputy Administrator Barry Q. Groves and Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor N. Diane Knight.

Ms. Linda Scarlett informed Ms. Carmen Blanco that she is under her supervision despite her assignment to the WPSO unit. Questions concerning technical issues and typing assignments will be addressed through WPSOS Diane Knight and any other problems or concerns including taking leave should be directed to Ms. Scarlett. Ms. Scarlett states, "It is anticipated that you will be permanently reassigned to a WPSO position in Ms. Weiss' unit once an individual has been selected for the Secretary Specialist position."

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Ms. Scarlett states, "During our conversation you also referred to a "problem you were having with me" and the fact that you felt you were being "harassed." When asked to elaborate, you indicated that this was just something that you "felt" and did not provide further detail. As stated, I would encourage you to bring any problems or concerns to my attention for resolution. At present, I am unaware of the source of this problem or the nature of this harassment."

On 07/1/96, a letter was addressed to Carmen Blanco from Correctional Probation Regional Administrator Joyce Haley, which is signed by Mr. Tony Harper and concerns reassignment. This letter informs Ms. Blanco she is being reassigned as a Word Processing Systems Operator position at the Regional Office to the same position at the 17-1 Pompano Beach Office of Probation and Parole Services, effective 07/15/96.

On 07/01/96, Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco filed a Career Service Employee Grievance, which states, "I have been informed that on 7/15/96, I will be reassigned. Copy of letter attached. I object to my reassignment. (2) When I questioned why I was being reassigned I was told "NO EXPLANATION NEED BE GIVEN". (3) The decision to reassign me seems to stem from racial discrimination towards me by my Supervisor, Ronald E. Crosby [.] (4) I have been on the job for over one (1) year and the Department over (4) years. My recent evaluations have been all Satisfactory." [sic] Under the section Employee's proposed solution states, "That I work under a Supervisor who believes in Cultural Diversity and that I not report to Mr. Crosby, That I continue my work under a different Supervisor [.]"

On 08/13/96, a letter is addressed to Carmen Blanco from Regional Director Carl D. Berry concerning a Career Service Grievance. Mr. Berry states "This is in response to the Step 2 Career Service Grievance hearing held in the Regional Office on Monday, August 12, 1996.



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The nature of your grievance is that you were informed that on 07/15/96, you would be reassigned, and that you objected to your reassignment. Your proposed solution was to work under a supervisor who believes in Cultural Diversity, that you not report to Mr. Crosby, and to continue your work under a different supervisor.

During the hearing, you indicated Mr. Crosby made derogatory statements towards yourself and other spanish speaking people. Additionally you felt that being reassigned to the 17-1 Office was placing you back into a-situation you had encountered with the clerical supervisor two years ago, and you had expressed a desire to be reassigned to the 17-0 Circuit Office.

As indicated in the hearing, we would not discuss ethnic issues, as the department has a procedure in place to address complaints that fall under Equal Employment Opportunity."

The letter states, that Ms. Carmen Blanco will be reassigned from the 17-1 office to 17-0 office effective 08/23/96.

On 03/30/98, A Review and Performance Planning form was signed by Ms. Carmen Blanco, Supervisor Karen McDonald and Reviewing Authority Grace Fishter. The rating period is for 04/12/97 through 03/30/98.

Supervisor Karen McDonald states, "Ms. Blanco is always willing to assist and train new employees as needed. She gets along with co-workers."

On 03/30/98, Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor Grace Fishter prepared a letter to Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco with copies to Correctional Probation Deputy Administrator Barry Groves, Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor Karen McDonald and personnel file.

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The letter states "Please be advised that on March 30, 1998, I discussed your evaluation with your immediate supervisor, Ms. Karen McDonald. I expressed my concerns and disagreed with the comments made in the evaluation based on documented evidence that have occurred during my stay at the 17-0 office.

Please be advised that this memorandum will be attached to your evaluation and a copy placed in your personnel file."

On 04/14/98, Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco prepared a letter addressed to Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor Karen McDonald with copies to Secretary Harry S. [sic] Singletary, Jr., Correctional Probation Deputy Administrator Barry Q. Groves, Attorney Ruben M. Garcia and Personnel File.

Ms. Carmen Blanco states "Today April 14, 1998, I was expecting to put in a full days work, but I received from Ms. Fishter a memo stating that she discussed with you my evaluation on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 1998 and expressed her concerns about the evaluation you had given me and that she disagreed with it. What greatly disturbs me is that my evaluation took place on April 6, 1998 and I don't see how she could have discussed this with you, when it did not take place on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Further, to this date I still don't understand why my rapp [sic] was back dated to March 30, 1998, also why the current memo that I received on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1998, was back dated to March 30, 1998.

Since it is my belief that these are games and strategies being played to indirectly harass me and intimidate me I am going to see my attorney to discuss this matter. I suppose that when lie detector test[s] are taken the truth will show up, but until then whenever I feel I'm being indirectly harassed or intimidated, I will seek legal counsel."...

On 04/30/98, Carmen Blanco requested a permanent flexible work schedule to accommodate her doctor's

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appointments for therapy. On 05/13/98, Regional Director Carl Berry approved this request.

On 05/08/98, Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor Karen McDonald sent a letter to Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco advising her of unauthorized leave without pay for not getting her leave approved prior to calling in on this date. Ms. McDonald stated "When this writer asked if you had completed a Leave Request Form for taking time off from work, you stated to this writer in an angry tone of voice that you did not have to request leave for personal issues and that I was harassing you. At that point I stated to you that I was not harassing you and there are policy and procedures for taking leave."

This information was forwarded to Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor Grace Fishter, Correctional Probation Deputy Administrator Barry Groves and Personnel File.

On 05/08/98, Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor Karen McDonald prepared a letter to Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco and copied this document to Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor Grace Fishter, Correctional Probation Deputy Administrator Barry Groves and Personnel File.

This letter documents a conversation between McDonald and Blanco reference the assignments in the office when McDonald was to be on leave (05/18/98-06/12/98). Ms. McDonald placed a less senior employee in the position to return work to staff that needed corrections. Ms. Blanco indicated she intended to fight the action and file a grievance.

On 06/16/98, Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor Grace Fishter issued Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco a Written Reprimand #1, which Ms. Blanco refused to sign and is witnessed by Karen McDonald. Copies are forwarded to Director of Regional Community Corrections Joyce D. Haley, Correctional Probation Senior Administrator Gary Rogatz, Correctional

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Probation Deputy Administrator Barry Groves and the Personnel File of Carmen Blanco.

Ms. Fishter states "This memo is to officially document that you are receiving a written reprimand for violation of DC Rule 33-4.002(4), and 33-4-003(22) Conduct Unbecoming a Public Employee.

This reprimand is based on the following: On May 4, 1998, Ms. Tranghese, WPSO, as directed by Ms. McDonald, WPSO Supervisor, placed two files on your desk for typing corrections to be made. At that point, you verbally attacked Ms. Tranghese in an outburst by stating in a loud, angry voice "In the future you are not to bring me corrections, and that after six (6) years of employment, I do not need you to do this and furthermore, you are not my supervisor."

Action of this nature cannot and will not be tolerated in the future.

As a Career Service Employee with permanent status you have the right to grieve this reprimand if you feel it is unjust. You may do so by using the Career Service Grievance Procedure or the Grievance Procedure outlined in the agreement between the State of Florida and A.F.S.C.M.E."

On 06/23/98, Carmen Blanco filed a Career Service Grievance with her supervisor, Karen McDonald.

The grievance concerned "Discrimination, Harassment in the work place and indirect retaliation, grievance is against Ms. Grace Fishter." Employee's proposed solution "That the people doing this be held accountable, and that a committee (An independent committee do an investigation).

Attached to this is a memo to Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor Karen McDonald with copies to Director Kerry Flack, Secretary Harry K. Singletary, E.E.O.C. and Attorney. The subject of this document

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is Employee Grievance regarding discrimination, harassment in the work place and indirect retaliation.

Ms. Carmen Blanco states, "Ms. McDonald, in the past six years with the department I have been discriminated against, harassed and retaliated against indirectly. Ms. Fishter's behavior towards me in the past and in the present is hostile and unprofessional. On one occasion I voiced my opinion and told her she was wrong in her methods of solving problems, instead of fixing them she pacifies them and doesn't solve them. It is my understanding that she did the same thing to Keisha Cheeks, Chestina Montague, Beth Burns, Bill Henry and me and God knows how many others. Her hostile manner with me is affecting not only my work performance, but my health as well. She is building up my file with negative memos so as to discredit me and when I asked to see if I could look at my work file, she denied me access to my file. When I asked her why? She stated "Because I don't want to" this behavior is uncalled for. If we are allowed to look at our personnel file at the regional level then she is breaking the rules.

When there is unprofessional behavior within the Department we all have choices to make. We can look the other way, or we can stand up for what is right. I believe in doing the "Right Thing" and will continue to request that the "Right Thing" be done. All those memos that Ms. Fishter put in my file while I was out on sick leave must be addressed with higher authorities.

Until there is an investigation on Ms. Fishter's behavior towards me regarding her unprofessional behavior by an independent agency, or someone from Tallahassee, I Carmen Blanco refuse to come to work until this problem is solved.

I have followed the chain of command to no avail and I am requesting that an independent agency or Tallahassee investigate Ms. Fishter's unprofessional

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behavior towards me. In the meantime I would appreciate her not addressing herself to me."

On 06/23/98, Ms Blanco filed a Department of Corrections Record of Oral Step Union Grievance with Supervisor Ms. Karen McDonald reference the same issues in the Career Service Grievance.

On 06/29/98, Regional Personnel Officer Thomas H. Stillson addressed a letter to Ms. Carmen Blanco at the Circuit Office 17-0. Mr. Stillson advised Ms. Blanco that the grievances (Exhibit #A2, pages 14 and 15) were being returned because she could not file with both the state and the union. Mr. Stillson also advises her that complaints reference allegations of discrimination are not grievable and must be filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Florida Commission on Human Relations or internally with the Florida Department of Corrections by contacting his office.

On 06/29/98, Word Processing Systems Operator Carmen Blanco faxed her resignation to Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor Karen McDonald. The subject of the document states "CAREER GRIEVANCE REGARDING INDIRECT RETALIATION, HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION."

The text states "Ms. McDonald, We all have choices to make. We can stand up for what is right or we can join others in doing what is wrong. I believe in doing the "Right Thing". All those memos that Ms. Fishter put in my file while I was out on sick leave must be addressed with higher authorities.

Until there is an investigation from an independent agency, regarding the unethical and professional behavior towards me. I Carmen Blanco resign from the Department of Corrections as of June 29, 1998.

I am confident, that in a Court of Law the "Right Thing" will be done." (Exhibit #A2, pages 1-20)

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On 04/13/92, Carmen Blanco signed a Department of Corrections Receipt for Rules, Procedures or Policies revising the EEO/AA Policy Statement effective 11/91.  
(Exhibit #A4)

On 10/19/98, I sent Ms. Carmen Blanco a certified letter requesting she contact me for an interview concerning her complaint and verifying our telephone conversation on 10/02/98. Ms. Carmen Blanco signed for this letter on 10/21/98 and has not contacted me for an interview.  
(Exhibit #A3, pages 1 & 2)

On 11/20/98, I reviewed and copied the Attendance and Leave Reports for Carmen Blanco for the dates of 04/17/98 through 06/29/98.

These documents reveal that Carmen Blanco worked a total of 53.50 hours. (Exhibit #A5, pages 1-7)

On 11/20/98, I conducted a sworn tape-recorded interview with Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor Grace Fishter.

Ms. Grace Fishter reviewed the complaint filed by Ms. Carmen Blanco and related she was not aware of any discrimination based on Ms. Blanco's national origin or retaliation. (Exhibit #A6, pages 1-6)

On 11/20/98, I conducted a sworn tape-recorded interview with Word Processing Systems Operator Supervisor Karen McDonald.

Ms. Karen McDonald reviewed the complaint filed by Ms. Carmen Blanco and related she was not aware of any discrimination based on Ms. Blanco's national origin or retaliation. (Exhibit #A7, pages 1-7)

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Signature: Philip D. Spent

Correctional Officer Senior Inspector

12/28/98

Date

Reviewed By: G. C. Hill

Regional Inspector Supervisor

12/28/98

Date

E. A. Smith  
Chief Inspector1/4/99

Date